# CONSOLIDATED PLAN

Community Development Block Grant Program - Small Cities

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Emergency Shelter Grants Program

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program

## Fiscal Years 2000 - 2004

# STATE OF LOUISIANA

M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr., Governor

Mark C. Drennen, Commissioner of Administration

The contents of this Consolidated Annual Action Plan follow the regulations and guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the preparation of a Consolidated Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the January 5, 1995, issue of the *Federal Register* the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published regulations requiring state agencies which administer certain HUD programs to incorporate their planning and application requirements into one master plan called the Consolidated Plan. Those regulations became effective on February 6, 1995 as 24 CFR Part 91. This new plan would replace the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, the HOME program description, the State's Community Development Plan, the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Final Statement, the Emergency Shelter (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) applications. It is HUD's opinion that consolidating the submission requirements created the opportunity for strategic planning and citizen participation to take place in a comprehensive context and to reduce duplication of effort at the State level. HUD also felt that the consolidated strategy and plan furthered the statutory goals of providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities through a collaborative process by establishing a unified vision for community revitalization.

The four state agencies participating in this consolidated planning process and the HUD funded program administered by each agency include the Division of Administration/Office of Community Development (Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program), the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (HOME Investment Partnerships Program), the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services (Emergency Shelter Grants Program), and the Department of Health and Hospitals/HIV/AIDS Program (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program). The Division of Administration/Office of Community Development was designated as the agency responsible for leading and coordinating the consolidated planning and submission process.

The primary objective of the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program is to provide assistance to units of general local government in non-entitlement areas for the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. The HOME Program objectives are: to expand the supply of decent and affordable housing for low and very low income persons, to stabilize the existing deteriorating homeowner occupied and rental housing stock through rehabilitation, to provide financial and technical assistance to recipients/subrecipients (including the development of model programs for affordable low income housing), to extend and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector (including for-profit and non-profit organizations) in the production and operation of affordable housing. The purpose of the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program is to help local governments and community organizations to improve and expand shelter facilities serving homeless individuals and families, to meet the costs of operating homeless shelters, to provide essential services, and to perform homeless prevention activities. The purpose of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program is to provide localities with the resources and incentives to devise and implement long term comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of persons with acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases and their families.

The first Consolidated Plan outlined the State's overall housing and community development needs and a strategy for meeting those needs for federal fiscal years 1995 B1999; the Consolidated Plan also included a one year action plan for the distribution of the FY 1995 federal funds received for the four aforementioned HUD programs. An annual update or action plan was prepared and publicized for each of the subsequent four federal fiscal years. This document presents the second Consolidated Plan and identifies the State's overall housing and community development needs and a strategy for meeting those needs for federal fiscal years 2000 - 2004; it also includes the action plan for the distribution of the FY 2000 funds received for each of the four programs. An annual update or action plan will be prepared for each of the subsequent four years (FY 2001 - FY 2004).

Housing elements of the Consolidated Plan are primarily based on 1990 census statistics and subsequent updates. Other sources utilized in compiling the required housing information include: Strategic Housing Needs Assessment 1995-2000 for LHFA by Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc.; The State of the Nation's Housing 1999 by Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University; Priced Out in 1998, The Housing Crisis for People with Disabilities published by The Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. & the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force; Louisiana Trend Analysis by the Right Site-Site Analysis Edition; Louisiana Labor Market Information Web Page by the Department of Labor; and Waiting in Vain: An Update on America's Rental Housing Crisis and America's Affordable Housing Crisis published in March, 1999, by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The Consolidated Plan for FY 2000 - FY 2004 and FY 2000 Annual Action Plan were developed using an effective citizen participation process which is in compliance with the regulations set forth in 24 CFR Part 91.

The State held two public hearings for the purpose of obtaining views on community development and housing needs throughout the State. Public hearings were held on May 24, 1999, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pineville City Hall and on May 25, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol Annex in Baton Rouge.

A notice of the public hearings was published in the May 5, 1999, issue of *The Advocate*. A notice of the public hearings was also published in the April 20, 1999, issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

Written invitations to attend the public hearings were mailed to more than seven hundred persons, local governing bodies, public, private, and non-profit agencies, and other interested parties. The mailing list represented a compilation of the mailing lists utilized by the four state agencies administering the four programs involved in the consolidated planning process.

In addition to accepting comments at the two public hearings, written comments could be submitted during the period of May 24, 1999, to June 10, 1999. A summary of the comments received and the response to each is provided in the section entitled "Comments Received."

In an effort to insure that the LCDBG Program is responsive to the needs of the local governing bodies eligible for funding under the State's LCDBG Program, the Office of Community Development conducts a survey of those local governing bodies every two years. Those local governing bodies include municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 persons and parishes with an unincorporated population of less than 200,000 persons. The most significant questions on the survey are: a) a prioritization of the five basic eligible activities, b) a prioritization of the public facilities projects, c) a prioritization of the distribution of funds by program category, d) maximum grant amounts by type of project, e) amount to be allowed for local administrative costs, and f) suggestions for improving the LCDBG Program. It is felt that this survey, in many ways, provides a better understanding of the needs of the State and the local governing bodies than the public hearing process.

The Office of Community Development mailed a questionnaire in February of 1999 to those three hundred and forty local governing bodies eligible under the LCDBG Program. One hundred and seventy-six local governing bodies responded to that questionnaire. The results of that survey were used in the development of the program guidelines for the prioritization of activities and distribution of the FY 2000 LCDBG funds. (Since housing and public facilities applications are accepted every two years, the February, 1999, survey results actually influence the direction of the housing and public facilities categories for the FY 2000 and FY 2001 LCDBG program years.) The results of that survey are discussed in that section of this document entitled Strategic Plan - Nonhousing Community Development Plan.

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) receives input from the public on an ongoing basis through participation by developers, non-profit entities, commercial lending institutions, public housing authorities and local governmental units in technical assistance workshops and public hearings held in connection with LHFA housing programs.

In order to assist the State in establishing a ranking order of housing need priorities by category, the LHFA requested input from attendees at the public hearings held in conjunction with the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report in both Baton Rouge and Pineville. Additional input was received from attendees at LHFA=s June, 1999, Board Meeting and members of the LHFA Board of Commissioners. (The results of Housing Priority Questionnaires are shown in Table 1).

Following the public hearings and receipt of comments on the housing and community development needs of the State, the proposed Consolidated Plan for FY 2000 - FY 2004 and the FY 2000 Annual Action Plan were drafted.

A notice of the availability of the proposed plans was published in the June 20, 1999, issue of the *Louisiana Register* and in *The Advocate* on July 1, 1999. A memorandum announcing the availability of the proposed plans was also sent to the compiled mailing list utilized by the four state agencies participating in the consolidated planning process. Copies of the proposed plans could be reviewed in the offices of any of the four state agencies involved; a limited number of plans were also available upon request from any of the four agencies.

The proposed plans were also available for viewing and copying on the internet (www. state.la.us/cdbg/cdbg.htm).

Written comments on the proposed plans could be submitted beginning July 6, 1999, and were accepted until August 5, 1999. A summary of the comments received and the response to each is provided in the last section of this plan entitled "Comments Received."

## Consultations

The Task Force of four state agencies responsible for development of the *Consolidated Plan* includes the two principal social service agencies of state government – the Department of Social Services (DSS), which administers the State's Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP) through its Office of Community Services (OCS), and the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) which administers the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program through its Office of Public Health.

Among the primary programs of DSS are the State's public welfare programs - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps, Family Independence Work Program, Child Care Assistance -- through its Office of Family Support; the State's child welfare social service programs for families and children - Child Protection, Foster Care, Adoptions - through its Office of Community Services; and the State's vocational rehabilitation programs - through Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

Among the primary programs of DHH are the administration of the State's programs and facilities for health care and treatment, including state institutions for the mentally ill and for the developmentally disabled, detoxification facilities, community based clinics and programs for persons with addictive disorders, mental health services, Medicaid eligibility, Public Health programs, licensing of nursing homes, and many other DHH administered programs.

The DHH and DSS participate in consultative relationships with other public and private social service agencies throughout the State through contractual arrangements and collaborative associations on a vast array of social service activities, at the state, regional, and local level. In programming services for indigent and low income citizens of Louisiana, the lack of affordable housing, including supportive housing for persons with special needs, is generally recognized as a serious problem throughout the State.

DHH and DSS agencies are represented on the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homeless. The Council was originally created through Executive Order 91-6 issued by Governor Buddy Roemer on June 14, 1991. Governor Edwin Edwards' Executive Order 92-6, issued on February 13, 1992, reestablished the Council and reappointed the membership. The Council was again re-authorized by Governor M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr. by Executive Order MJF 96-2 on February 7, 1996. Composition of the Council includes representatives of the following agencies and interests: Governor's Executive Office (1), Governor's Offices of Elderly Affairs (1), Veterans Affairs (1), Women's Services (1), Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (1), Department of Corrections:, Office of Adult Services (1), Office of Youth Services (1), Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism:, Office of Cultural Development (1), Department of Education (1), Department of Labor (1), Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH) Bureau of Health Services Financing (1), DHH/Office of Alcohol & Drug Abuse (1), Office of Mental Health (1), Office/Citizens w/ Developmental Disabilities (1), Office of Public Health (1), Department of Social Services:, Office of Community Services, Child Welfare Program (1), Grants Management Division (1), Office of Family Support (1), La. Rehabilitation Services (1), Member - La. House of Representatives, Member - La. Senate, Member - Drug Policy Board, 3 Members - Service Providers, 2 members - local government agencies, 2 members - local advocacy groups, Member - non-profit legal services agency, 4 members - at large.

The purpose of the Council is to assure the effective use of the State's resources and to make recommendations to enable state government to alleviate homelessness. The Council is believed to be the largest collaboration in state government ever to address a single issue. The Council seeks to ensure maximum input from all sectors of the community, and includes among the commissioned members a state senator, a state representative, municipal and private sector representatives, service providers, and advocates. Other persons who have experienced homelessness and representatives of regional coalitions and resource networks serve as consultants to the Council. Consultation was conducted through the Council in developing appropriate priorities for the Homeless Assistance strategy to be incorporated in the State's FY 2000 - 2004 Consolidated Plan as well as the following recommendations for improving the delivery of services and assistance for homeless persons in Louisiana:

1. That community based consortia, such as "continuum of care" collaboratives, be the model for systems integration of residential housing, treatment and supportive service components to address effective and comprehensive programming of public and private resources for serving the destitute, homeless, and persons with multiple special needs.

2. That state agencies in developing models for treatment of co-occurring disorders, include persons with HIV and those with less severe or moderate mental illness and adopt a holistic approach to consider all symptoms and conditions as primary and include preventative treatment for persons at risk or in the early stages of a disorder.

3. That local private and public agencies work to improve networking on training opportunities and consider the use of stipends for the residential costs of persons otherwise unable to obtain their own housing to participate in and complete job training programs.

4. That homeless prevention be included as an element of program planning for vulnerable families and individuals and that consideration be given to successful models and strategies from other states on appropriate services and assistance to help prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

5. That greater emphasis be given to the provision of living skills training for at risk youth and adults, particularly those participating in transitional housing programs.

The ESG Program Manager within the Department of Social Services has served as the State Contact Person for Homeless Issues functioning as a single point of contact and State liaison for communications with federal, state and local entities on matters relating to the State's homeless people and at risk persons and families. This official disseminates and facilitates the flow of available information on homelessness in Louisiana and homeless assistance resources. The State Contact is an advocate for development of resources and collaborative systems to address the unmet needs of homeless people in the State. The Contact Person also is responsible to provide appropriate public information to enhance knowledge on homelessness and homeless resource subjects. The State ESGP administrative agency has responsibility to maintain the State's inventory of facilities and services to assist homeless persons and produces reports and resource directories for public distribution. The Department of Social Services also provides administrative support for the Louisiana Homeless Trust Fund and has coordinative and consultative responsibilities with respect to funding applications and technical aid to entities interested in development of homeless assistance resources in local communities.

The main forum of consultation on homeless assistance activities in the State of Louisiana has occurred in the context of Continuum of Care planning at the local or regional level. This process is facilitated through the efforts of regional continuum of care collaboratives and coalitions involving the participation of key social service providers, including many private nonprofit organizations, in the State's regions. This collaborative process and the results of consultation on development of the Continuum of Care are described in the 1999 Annual Report on Homelessness by the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homeless

TABLE 1

RESULTS OF HOUSING PRIORITY QUESTIONNAIRES
FOR CONSOLIDATED PLAN

| Priority | Scoring | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | B.R.P.H. 5-25-99 | Pineville P.H. 5-24-99 | LHFA Board mtg. Attendees 6-9-99 | LHFA Commissioners |
| (# of responses) | (7) | (7) | (6) | (8) |
| Homeownership | 20 | 19 | 15 | 15 |
| Rental | 19 | 16 | 15 | 20 |
| Rehab | 26 | 21 | 15 | 21 |
| Supportive Services | 19 | 20 | 23 | 36 |
| Technical Assist. | 21 | 29 | 22 | 28 |

Order of Priorities based on above scores

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Homeownership | 3 | 2 | 1* | 1 |
| Rental | 1* | 1 | 1* | 2 |
| Rehab | 5 | 4 | 1* | 3 |
| Supportive Services | 1* | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Technical Assist. | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |

* Represents ties in scoring

Total scores and resulting order of priority

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority #1 | HOMEOWNERSHIP (69) |
| Priority #2 | RENTAL (70) |
| Priority #3 | REHAB (83) |
| Priority #4 | SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (98) |
| Priority #5 | TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (100) |

## HOUSING AND HOMELESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The housing and homeless needs of the State of Louisiana are substantial and complex. The State developed its statistics by using the most reliable possible information concerning historical and current conditions. In order to estimate and project the housing needs for the next five years, Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) examined 1990 Census data and subsequent updated statistics and two trend reports to reveal certain basic economic and demographic trends for the State. LHFA also received public input through the use of surveys and questionnaires, conducted a 1995-2000 housing study through Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc. (Legg Mason), and consulted with local governmental units, other state agencies and associations.

### HOUSING NEEDS

The housing needs for the residents of the State of Louisiana are identified and described in the following assessment. The statistical and analytical information is grouped by categories of persons affected: renters and owners, income levels, elderly one and two member households, single or two person (small) households, five or more persons (large) households, overcrowded households, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, and persons with disabilities.

The estimates of needs and projections of needs for the next five years are based on 1990 census statistics, 1998 Annual Statistics Report, HUD data and a 1995-2000 housing study by Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc. (Legg Mason). Consultation with local governmental units, other state agencies and associations, a trend analysis by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University and housing reports from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have aided in the discussion of the housing needs for the residents of the State of Louisiana.

The assessment uses both median family income (MFI) and median household income data. Income levels for the assessment are based on $26,313, the 1990 Adjusted Median Family Income (HAMFI) for the State. The median household incomes are used to analyze the extent of needs and are obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau Model-Based Income and Poverty Estimate for Louisiana in 1995. These estimates were released in February, 1999. The median household income for the State of Louisiana, based on the 1995 estimates, was $27,265. In Table 2, research information is presented which was developed and organized by the Legg Mason study according to income ranges. The analysis of the information was useful in determining the severity of housing needs by targeted income groups. The Legg Mason's computer model of the State's households by age and income through the Year 2000 is summarized in Table 3. The distribution of households by income range for 1995 has been used as the basis for the housing needs analysis.

The needs for assistance among extremely low-, low-, moderate-, and middle-income households of renters and owners are described in terms of incidence of cost burdens (expenditure of over thirty percent of the MFI for housing), extreme cost burdens (expenditures of over fifty percent of the MFI for housing) and housing problems. Housing problems include the aggregate of cost burdens, substandard housing, and overcrowding. The disproportionate extent of needs of minority households will also be addressed.

In 1990, the State of Louisiana had an estimated population of 4,221,826. The population increased by 3.5 percent , according to the U.S. Census (St-98-2) Report, to an estimated 4,368,967 persons which constitute 1,572,000 households and 1,780,000 housing units. Of the 1,572,000 households, 66.6 percent are owners and 33.4 percent are renters.

According to the 1990 Census, Whites comprised approximately seventy percent of the total population and Blacks twenty-seven percent. Additional population groups include approximately 19,083 American Indians, 10,875 persons of Vietnamese extraction, 3,300 persons of the Chinese descent, 2,875 persons with Asian Indian background and 2,615 persons of Filipino origin. Approximately, 90,609 persons are of Hispanic background.

A review of the population and household group data reported in the 1990 census data and reflected in the CHAS for fiscal years 1994-1999 reveals:

- A decline of approximately 65,564 in the total White population;
- An estimated increase of 68,137 in the total Black population;
- A decrease of approximately 9,909 in the Hispanic population;
- An increase of 7,136 in the American Indian population
- An increase of 14,599 in Asian and Pacific Islander residents; and
- A decrease of 1,145 in all other population groups within the State.

Approximately sixty-three percent of the total White population reside in urban sections of Louisiana. Over 78.3 percent of all Blacks live in urban areas. Nearly fifty percent of Black urban residents are below the poverty level, with 45.72 percent of the total Black population and 13.42 percent of the total White population below the poverty level.

1. ***Extremely Low-Income- ( 0-30 percent MFI) 1990 Census Estimate***

- **Family Size**

  In 1990, small related renter households more than doubled the number of other renter categories but were 7.5 percent less than the number of elderly owner households. Included in the small related renter households are single parent families. Twenty-eight percent of all Louisiana households fall within the Aextremely low income@ category (0-30 percent of median family income [MFI] and two-thirds of these households were elderly. According to the Legg Mason study, there were 274,163 extremely low-income households in 1995.

$ **Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burdens**

In 1990, small related renter households were the most severe cost burdened within the category of extremely low income; followed by large related renter households. Universally, more than sixty percent of all extremely low income renters' and owners' households, according to the 1990 census data, experienced housing cost burdens expending an excess of thirty percent of the household=s gross income. Thirty-four percent of all extremely low income renter households reported during this period experienced cost burdens as compared with nineteen percent of all extremely low income owner households. In 1995, the Legg Mason study estimated that almost four-fifths (nearly 78.3 percent) of all extremely low-income households were experiencing some form of housing problem.

$ **Housing Problems**

In 1990, housing problems affected ninety-one percent of all extremely low income large related renter households, followed by seventy-six percent of extremely low income small related households. Overcrowded conditions experienced by large related renter households account for the greater percentage of those households experiencing housing problems. In terms of the number of households experiencing housing problems, the 1990 Census reported that 45,145 extremely low income small related renter households experienced housing problems. During the same period, 20,305 extremely low income large related households also experienced housing problems. For owners, the 1990 Census reported that more than sixty-nine percent of extremely low income renters and forty-eight percent of extremely low income owners experienced housing problems. Of this total income group, Legg Mason reported that 15,969 households were living in physically substandard housing and 198,709 were experiencing housing problems due to high shelter expenses or overcrowding.

• **Disproportionate Need of Racial/ Ethnic Groups**

Census data for 1990 clearly reveals that extremely low income African-American female single parents with children have the greatest need, especially in the renters' household category. The findings remain unchanged for 1995.

Ethnic and racial statistical data stratified according to income groups is unavailable. All households in the extremely low income range have high percentages of housing problems, seventy-eight percent overall. Small related households (mostly Black female head of households) more than doubled the number, experienced severe cost burden, and were experiencing some form of housing problem greater than any other category of renters according to the 1990 Census.

$ **Five Year Projections**

It is anticipated that the number of single parent households with young children will swell over the next five years. This projection is based in part upon the rate of births among extremely low- income teenage mothers and the general population growth for the State as a whole.

Extremely low income families with children who are deprived of the support of one of more parents (due to disability, absence, or unemployment of the primary wage earner) lack financial resources sufficiently adequate to meet basic needs.

Many extremely low-income households will be forced to contribute more of their household income for rent and utilities as a result of the welfare to work initiative. Many will be forced to pay as much as 53.5 percent of their household income for rent and utilities. Consequently, according to HUD=s standards, many extremely low-income households will experience Asevere cost burdens@ with a housing cost burden greater than fifty percent of the median family income..

The Department of Social Service=s Office of Community Services (OCS) administers the State=s child welfare and child protection programs. Data on substantiated complaints of child abuse/ neglect indicated that inadequate shelter was a factor in 8.19 percent or 5,825, of maltreatment allegations reported in 1986. The lack of decent affordable housing can be seen to have a direct and serious effect on the home situations of low income families and the physical/ emotional well being of vulnerable children.

2. ***Low Income-(31-50 percent MFI), 1990 Census Estimates***

$ **Family Size**

In 1990, small related renter households represented approximately forty-six percent of all renter households and approximately eighteen percent of all households. Low income owners represented sixty-one percent of total households in that category, with non-elderly owners comprising the largest number of households (90,427 according to the 1990 Census) within that category. In 1995, according to the Legg Mason study, there were an estimated 181,341 households in this income group.

$ **Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burdens**

Elderly and one and two member renter households experienced, by a large percentage (forty-five percent), cost burdens in excess of thirty percent of income. Small related renter households and non-elderly owner households experience cost burdens at near equal percentage, thirty-eight percent and thirty-seven percent, respectively. In 1995, the Legg Mason study reported that 45.7 percent of all low-income households were overcrowded and contributed more than thirty percent of their household income for housing expenses, 119,998 were owner and 61,343 were renter households.

$ **Housing Problems**

In 1990, large related renter households experienced housing problems such as overcrowding and inadequate kitchen and bathroom facilities at a far greater percentage (sixty-six percent) than was found for any low income group. Approximately 4.7 percent (68,523 households) lived in physically substandard housing units in 1995.

- $ **Disproportionate Need of Racial/ Ethnic Groups**

  In 1990, low income African-American households experienced housing cost burdens and housing problems in greater percentages than other racial/ ethnic groups.

  Ethnic and racial statistical data stratified according to income groups is unavailable.

- $ **Five Year Projections**

  There is an expectation that low income households will experience modest growth in numbers over the next five years.

3. ***Moderate Income-(51-80 percent MFI), 1990 Census Estimates***

- $ **Family Size**

  According to the 1990 census data, the number of moderate income owner households (68,312) exceeded moderate income rental households by 194 percent. Non-elderly owner households were the largest category of moderate income households. The Legg Mason study reported that there were 239,152 moderate income households in 1995.

- $ **Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burdens**

  Twenty-seven percent of moderate income elderly and one and two member renter households and twenty-five percent of non-elderly owner households experienced cost burdens of thirty percent or more in 1990. Generally, moderate income owners experience cost burdens by a higher percentage (twenty percent) than renter households (seventeen percent). In 1995, the Legg Mason study reported that 33,118 moderate income households were either overcrowded or contributing in excess of thirty percent of MFI for housing or both.

- $ **Housing Problems**

  Approximately, forty-eight percent of large related renter households experienced housing problems, such as overcrowded conditions and inadequate plumbing and kitchen facilities. In 1990, twenty-six percent of total owners experienced housing problems as compared to twenty-two percent of total renters. According to the Legg Mason study, there were 8,798 moderate income households living in substandard housing units in 1995. Many of these households, according to the State of the Nations Housing 1999 Report by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, neglect routine maintenance because of higher housing cost burdens.

$ **Disproportionate Need of Racial/ Ethnic Groups**

African-American moderate income owners and renters bear a greater proportion of need within this category at approximately 2.3 percent of all housing units as compared with 0.42 percent of all housing units owned by Whites.

Ethical and racial statistical data stratified according to income groups is unavailable.

$ **Five Year Projections**

Forecasts anticipate greater surges in the reduction of cost burdened units and the numbers of units with housing problems for moderate income households over the next five years.

**4. Middle Income-(81-95 percent MFI), 1990 Census Estimates**

$ **Family Size**

In 1995, according to the Legg Mason study, there were 139,596 middle income households in the State.

$ **Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burdens**

Of the 139,596 middle income households reported in 1995, 11.9 percent (16,559 middle income households) were either overcrowded or contributed more than thirty percent of MFI for monthly housing expenses.

$ **Housing Problems**

More than 15.3 percent or all middle income households suffered from housing problems in 1995. Housing problems consisted of either excessive housing cost burdens or overcrowding and 4,797 middle income households lived in substandard housing.

$ **Disproportionate Needs of Racial/ Ethnic Groups**

There were no disproportionate needs of racial or ethnic groups reported.

$ **Five Year Projections**

It is anticipated that this income group will increase over the next five years. However, it is also anticipated that this group's household income will increase thus allowing income to absorb most housing problems anticipated by this group.

**HOMELESS NEEDS**

Louisiana, in common with the rest of the country, witnessed a significant increase in the number of homeless people beginning in the late 1970's and early 1980's. It was said that not since the days of the Great Depression had there been so many homeless persons and families in the United States. Among the contributing factors were a severe increase in housing costs during the decade of the seventies and a concomitant decline in the available low-income housing stock — for such reasons as deterioration/condemnation of older housing units, urban renewal activities, and “gentrification” of some neighborhoods. Coupled with the declining availability of affordable housing, Louisiana also suffered and continues to suffer one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. During the economic recession of the early eighties, families with children became the fastest growing segment of the homeless population throughout the nation as well as in Louisiana. In addition to economic dislocation, other contributing social problems during this period were the increasing incidence and/or severity of substance abuse (particularly the crack cocaine epidemic), de-institutionalization of chronically mentally ill persons, the lack of community based residential treatment programs, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and family disruption from causes such as domestic violence.

The earliest studies of homelessness in Louisiana were conducted in New Orleans, where the burgeoning number of homeless people was most clearly visible. The pioneering effort was a 1985 Loyola University study, “Struggling to Make It”, which estimated the number of homeless persons in the city at between 1,200 to 2,000. Four years later, the Rudegeair Study commissioned by Associated Catholic Charities of New Orleans documented a “point in time” minimum count of approximately 1,300 to 1,400 homeless people during the City’s freeze emergency of December, 1989. The study also yielded an unduplicated count of 7,858 persons served by local shelters during the twelve month calendar year of 1989. Subsequent annualized counts of persons served (unduplicated) by the City of New Orleans' Health Care for the Homeless Program recorded 8,669 persons served during calendar year 1990, 10,824 individuals served during calendar year 1991, 11,526 individuals served during calendar year 1992, 12,961 served in 1993, and 14,092 served in 1994.

The first effort to perform a count of all the homeless persons in the State was the U.S. Census Bureau's count of homeless persons in shelters and observed on the street for the night of March 20-21, 1990 [S-Night]. The census enumerated 1,803 homeless persons staying at shelters throughout the state and another 184 homeless persons who were “visible in street locations”. An additional 1,891 persons enumerated at other “non-household living situations” (drug/alcohol centers, group homes, etc.) were recorded as homeless (having “no usual home elsewhere”), for a total statewide homeless count of 3,878 persons [point in time].

In January, 1991, the Louisiana Office of Community Services, as administrative agency for the Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP), conducted its first survey of shelters and transitional housing facilities throughout the State. Survey respondents reported that on the night of January 31, 1991, a total of 1,643 persons were staying in homeless facilities. Twenty-five percent of this number, or 431 persons, comprised individuals living in family groups, including 262 children and youth. The ethnic/racial composition of the entire sample was: African American - 51.6 percent; White/Caucasian - 45.7 percent; Hispanic - 1.6 percent; Asian - .7 percent; and American Indian - .5 percent.

In November, 1991, a statewide study of homelessness in Louisiana was conducted under the auspices of the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homeless (LIACH). The Council's findings were included in a report entitled "*Who are Louisiana's Homeless People*" issued in February, 1992. Of the 1,579 persons reported to be staying in shelters for the night of November 19, 1991, family groups comprised 33.7 percent of the total. The 166 family groups in the count included 211 adults and 321 children. Fifty-four percent of the 321 sheltered children were under the age of six. The unduplicated count of persons served during a twelve month period as reported by each respondent shelter, when all shelter counts were added together, yielded a cumulative statewide total of 31,780 persons who had been served by homeless facilities in Louisiana during an annual period.

Other findings of LIACH's 1991 homelessness survey were:

- Most people experience episodes of homelessness rather than living "on the streets" all the time.
- Homelessness is a problem in all regions of the State
- Seventy-one percent of the homeless people surveyed were native Louisianians
- Veterans comprised 30.8 percent of homeless adult males.
- Of a sample group of persons receiving homeless assistance services, fifty-six percent live in metropolitan areas; forty-four percent live in non-metropolitan areas.
- Fifty percent of people living on the street with their children had worked in the last six months.

Subsequent Council studies have continued to re-validate these findings. Based on data acquired for its 1991 needs assessment, the Louisiana Interagency Council estimated that 34,508 persons in the State experience an episode of homelessness in a year's time.

The Council conducted its second statewide survey of homelessness in October, 1992. A point in time figure of 1,927 persons were reported as shelter guests on the night of October 22, 1992. This number included 476 children and youth. In this survey, shelter operators were asked to indicate and rank the barriers encountered by homeless persons in accessing state services. Their responses are listed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Lack of stable address/income | - 73 |
| Lack of transportation | - 72 |
| Lack of ID or documents | - 70 |
| Intake procedures lengthy or difficult | - 59 |
| Lack information on where/how to apply | - 52 |
| Appointments hard to get/keep | - 50 |

In the second part of the survey, 407 homeless people from around the State were asked for information about their service needs and to make suggestions about how State services could be improved. According to these survey responses, the proportion of homeless people receiving specified state services is indicated as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Food Stamps | 53.6% |
| Medicaid | 25.7% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Veterans Services | 23.% |
| HIV/AIDS Testing/Treatment | 17.1% |
| Family Violence Services | 15.3% |
| TB Testing/Treatment | 14.9% |
| Mental Health Services | 12.2% |
| Substance Abuse Treatment | 9.7% |
| Job Search/Training services | 8.9% |

In response to questions on how state services could be improved or made easier for them to receive, the most common responses by homeless persons were in the area of job training and assistance. These comments included the need for more job opportunities, assistance with transportation to job interviews and to jobs until the first paycheck is received, listings of area job openings at the shelters, and increased education and training for jobs. Housing/shelter was the second most frequently addressed category. Homeless people identified the need for shelters to permit longer stays, the need for more shelters, the need for more shelters serving families, better facilities to ease overcrowding, more flexible shelter hours to accommodate people who work late, better security at shelters, and funding for the upkeep of shelters. Affordable "decent" apartments and hotels were identified as a critical need, as well as improvements in the Section 8 program. Other comments included:

- Have day shelters available for showers and respite from the weather.
- Provide a faster turn around for getting SSI benefits.
- More affordable child care services.
- Better information about available services and where to get them.
- Make identification easier to obtain. Waive the fees for the homeless.
- Need more programs addressing substance abuse in the homeless population.

In its 1993 needs assessment survey, the Council attempted a more extensive examination of <u>small town and rural homelessness</u>. As one component of its multi-part evaluation, the Council asked Community Action Agencies in rural parishes throughout Louisiana to contact churches, service, and charitable organizations in their localities for information on the number of persons who were provided emergency housing assistance during the month of October, 1993. A total of 1,516 homeless individuals were reported to have received emergency housing and other homeless assistance during October, 1993. This total represented 800 families with 884 children. In addition, a total of 2,219 individuals, including 791 families with 1,305 children, received homeless prevention services.

From data collected in its 1993 survey of homeless facilities, the Council found that the majority of the available shelter beds served unaccompanied or single adults who were not members of family groups or couples. In total, adults, unaccompanied and in family groups, constituted 72 percent of the 2,253 individuals staying in shelters on the night of September 28, 1993. A total of 620 children and youth were counted in this point in time sample.

Another component of the Council's 1993 homeless needs assessment involved interviews of homeless adults in shelters across the state. The randomly selected interview sample included five percent of the shelter population on the night of the visit. A total of one hundred adults, sixty men and forty women, were interviewed in shelters in all areas of the State (except Shreveport) by Council members and Tulane University graduate students. Professor James D. Wright of the Tulane University Department of Sociology had previously designed and field tested the survey instrument. Dr. Wright and Ms. Laurie Joyner provided extensive consultation, training of interviewers, technical assistance, and compilation of the survey findings. Overall the homeless sample group were young and were not transient. The average age of the interview subjects was 37; a majority (fifty-eight percent) reported this as their first episode of homelessness; the average age of first homelessness reported by the sample was 32; eighty-one percent were age forty or younger when they experienced homelessness for the first time.

> Nearly two-thirds were born in Louisiana; eighty-four percent had resided in the State ten years or more; those born elsewhere had lived in the State an average of sixteen years. [Among the general population of the State, seventy-nine percent of Louisiana residents are natives.]
>
> Chronic medical problems were reported by forty-two percent of the one hundred homeless adults interviewed in the sample, with forty-one percent taking prescribed medications on a regular basis for the problems. Thirty-nine percent reported having received treatment for an alcohol or drug problem, and twenty-five percent reported prior hospitalization for a psychiatric problem. A majority of the sample (fifty-six percent) completed high school or had some college education. One-third reported that the previous week they had been working or keeping house. However, only eight percent of the respondents reported a current income above the 1990 poverty line for a single individual ($6800).
>
> A majority (fifty-six percent) reported receiving some amount of public assistance within the last thirty days, but for 3/4ths of the sample, this was $112 or less. Only six respondents reported receiving SSI, which still placed their income below the poverty line. Only nineteen percent reported that they had not ever received any kind of welfare benefits or public assistance. The primary types of assistance received were Food Stamps (fifty percent) and AFDC (twenty-four percent).
>
> Of the one hundred adults in the statewide sample, fifty-six percent were black, twenty-three percent were veterans, and three percent had served in Vietnam. Only nine percent were currently married, forty-two percent had never married, and forty-six percent were either divorced or separated. The total number of children reported by seventy-one percent of the respondents was 203, ranging in age from one to thirty.
>
> Nearly half (forty-eight percent) reported living in their own house or apartment prior to the current episode of homelessness. The most frequently cited reasons for leaving the last living arrangement were: interpersonal conflict (twenty-two percent), alcohol or drug problems (seventeen percent), loss of job (fifteen percent), and "other" (twenty-four percent), which included responses of physical abuse (ten percent) and economic reasons (six percent).
>
> A large number of the respondents had been involved with the criminal justice system, with fifty-nine percent reporting a formal arrest, and thirty-three percent of these reporting a conviction for a crime. Of these, twenty-four percent were felony charges, and twenty-eight percent served time in a jail or prison.

A number of differences between the sexes were apparent: compared with men, the homeless women in the sample were younger (the average age was 33.7 years, compared with 39.1 years for men), were more likely to be homeless for the first time, less likely to have used health or medical services, more likely to have experienced physical, sexual, and emotional abuse during childhood, more likely to report living with a spouse or sexual partner just before the current episode of homelessness, and more likely to report interpersonal conflict or physical abuse as the most important reason for leaving the last living arrangement. While women were less likely than men to report alcohol or drug problems, women who did report a problem identified crack as the biggest problem (fifty percent). Among men, alcohol and crack were nearly equally likely to be reported as the biggest problem (forty-six percent and fifty-two percent respectively). Women reported "other" drugs to be as significant a problem as alcohol (twenty-five percent each).

According to interview responses, homeless women were much less likely to have been formally arrested, and only 2.5 percent had ever been in jail or prison. The women did report being victims of violence. Fifty percent had been assaulted and beaten up and twenty-five percent had been raped.

Following its 1993 needs assessment survey, the Council estimated that a total of 72,030 persons in Louisiana experience an episode of homelessness during a one year period. This estimate (double the Council's previous annual estimate) factored in newly acquired data on rural homelessness and other indicators from available sources. The Council cautioned that these figures were not intended to be considered a precise and accurate count, but rather a "reasonable estimate...based on the best available data" at the time.

Shelter Survey Findings

Each year since 1991 the State has continued the collection of statistics from homeless shelters and transitional housing facilities. In presenting its facility survey data, the State Interagency Council cautioned that **it should not be inferred that information on shelter users accurately reflects the characteristics and needs of all homeless persons in the State.** The initial studies by the Council found that a precise and accurate count of all homeless individuals was not possible. Only those homeless persons requesting services from homeless resource agencies can be counted. By some estimates, perhaps as few as half of all persons experiencing homelessness throughout the state ever stay in public shelters. The availability of homeless shelters and transitional housing programs is mainly confined to metropolitan areas and larger cities. In other areas of the state, homeless persons may be assisted with overnight lodging or emergency housing, transportation, and other needs through such resources as churches, ministerial alliances, community action agencies, and/or organizations receiving funds under the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Only a small proportion of homeless persons are chronically homeless for lengthy periods. For most who experience homelessness, their homeless state is temporary and short term, but can recur on an episodic basis. The Council's assessments have found that homelessness is a condition linked to poverty and the State of Louisiana has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation.

For very low income families and persons, particularly those without support systems such as family and friends to help them sustain independent living, crises and economic reverses increase their vulnerability to homelessness. Thus, in addition to homeless individuals staying in shelters as well as unsheltered homeless persons, commonly referred to as the "street homeless," there are many more homeless and "near homeless" families and persons who are considered to be "precariously housed." This includes families residing in "doubled up/tripled up" housing arrangements and the "couch homeless" who move from one place to another staying with relatives, friends and acquaintances. For the above reasons, shelter data should not be viewed as reflecting a complete picture of homelessness in the state. It should also be understood that when homeless persons are not among shelter users, such as the street homeless or those persons sleeping in abandoned buildings and in their cars, etc., exact information on the nature and extent of the largely invisible segments of the homeless population is not possible. The availability of shelter beds does not directly correlate to the extent of need in each locality. Review of Louisiana's shelter inventory (see appendix) reveals that shelter facilities are found in a limited number of localities within the State. Findings in the Council's Second Annual Report of 1993 demonstrated that the location of the State's shelter beds "does not correspond with areas of extreme poverty rates." In a subsequent assessment of rural homelessness issued in 1994, the Council concluded there was "a great lack of basic services" in the extremely poor parishes, a lack which contributed greatly to the invisibility of homeless persons in these areas.

Recent Interagency Council annual reports have graphically plotted "point in time" shelter counts for sampling dates from November, 1991 through January, 1999. These sampling dates and the graphed aggregate shelter counts are given below:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date: | 11/19/91 | 10/22/92 | 07/15/93 | 02/02/94 | 01/31/95 |
| Total ShelterUsers: | 1561 | 1927 | 2252 | 2260 | 2804 |
| Date: | 03/09/96 | 03/07/97 | 11/23/97 | 04/04/98 | 08/10/98 |
| Total ShelterUsers: | 2790 | 2594 | 2784 | 2382 | 2497 |
| Date: | 11/17/98 | 01/28/99 | | | |
| Total ShelterUsers: | 2424 | 2573 | | | |

The shelter numbers for these points in time indicates a rise and then leveling off in the number of sheltered homeless persons during this seven-year period. Closer review of other data reveals certain trends related to the nature and capacity of the surveyed shelters during this period. Of significance is evidence of an overall, gradual increase in the number of facilities and total bed capacity available to assist homeless persons. It is also noteworthy that a large portion of the capacity added during this period comprised newly established or expanded transitional housing facilities offering longer term shelter with supportive services, often to house homeless families with children. There is also evidence of seasonal variation in shelter use, with higher counts recorded on certain colder nights.

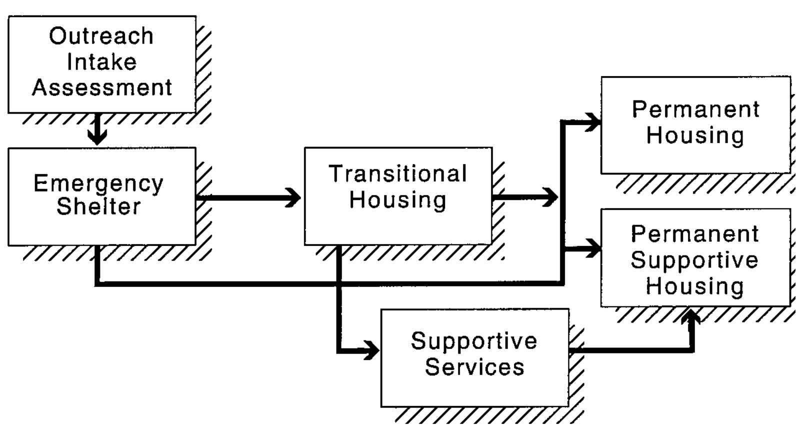
Shelter operators were also asked to estimate the number of their guests on a specified night who had service needs related to the following areas: severe mental illness; alcohol/other drug abuse; dual diagnosis: both severe mental illness and alcohol/other drug abuse; domestic violence; AIDS and related diseases; and physical disabilities. The following table represents data which illustrates the prevalence of these service needs as perceived by shelter operators for both the 1997 and 1998 homeless needs assessments. Persons with service needs related to Alcohol/Other Drug Abuse was the largest reported special needs subgroup among the sheltered homeless on the sample date. The second largest special needs subgroup were victims of domestic violence.

| Special Need Subgroup | 1997 Estimate (%) | 1998 Estimate (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Severe Mental Illness | 224 (7.8%) | 265 (10.3%) |
| Substance Abuse | 1045 (36.5%) | 1066 (41.4%) |
| SMI and Sub. Abuse | 146 (5.1%) | 154 (6%) |
| Domestic Violence | 379 (13.2%) | 403 (15.7%) |
| AIDS/HIV | 121 (4.2%) | 136 (5.3%) |
| Physical Disabilities | 146 (5.1%) | 130 (5.1%) |
| N = | 2865 | 2573 |

Each year, shelter and transitional housing facilities were individually asked to report the unduplicated number of persons they served over one year. These "sheltered homeless" figures reported by individual shelter providers on unduplicated homeless persons served over a one-year period totaled 32,840 for the 1997 reporting period and 32, 347 for 1998.

*Priority Home, The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness,* issued in 1994, fostered the concept of a "continuum of care" system to provide necessary housing options and support services to enable homeless persons to achieve self-sufficiency. This approach envisioned comprehensive strategic planning at the local community level to inventory existing resources and to identify gaps or deficiencies for development of the continuum of care for homeless persons in the local area. Activities targeted to eliminate such gaps would be the primary objectives to which available resources to address homelessness and housing needs would be directed. As stated in the federal Continuum of Care homeless assistance policy, “Homelessness is not caused merely by a lack of shelter, but involves a

*Continuum of Care*




variety of underlying, unmet needs -- physical, economic, and social. Therefore a comprehensive system of services, as well as permanent housing, is necessary to help homeless individuals and families in our communities reach independence. This system and philosophy, called a "continuum of care," strives to fulfill those requirements with three fundamental components: emergency shelter, transitional housing with social services, and permanent housing. More importantly, this approach recognizes that the homeless needs in each community, as well as current resources and systems to meet those needs, are as different and distinct as the people who live in these communities.

This concept guided and influenced the Council's design of its 1994 and subsequent annual needs assessment. As part of this assessment, the Council asked shelter operators to evaluate the local availability of certain enumerated services to help homeless persons. The survey results indicated that the services or necessary assistance rated to be most available by shelter operators were food, followed closely by clothing. The next most available service, according to survey results, was AIDS/HIV testing and counseling. From the combined ratings by shelter operators, those necessary homeless aid resources that received the lowest availability scores were Permanent Housing, Child Care, Help with Transportation, Day Programs/Drop-in Centers and Transitional Housing.

Shelter operators were also asked which three services represented the greatest unmet needs in their localities. Permanent Housing was most frequently listed as one of the greatest unmet needs in the top three rankings by shelter providers. The unmet need most often ranked number one by shelter operators was Immediate Shelter. The services that were ranked highest as unmet needs in survey tallies were permanent housing, transitional housing, immediate shelter, job training/employment, child care, and help with transportation. With the exception of immediate shelter, the above services are also the same ones that shelter operators most often had assessed to be unavailable or to have very limited availability for the needs of homeless persons in their localities.

As previously discussed, the “Continuum of Care” approach is central to the Federal Plan to Address Homelessness. As defined by HUD, the “Continuum of Care” is “an approach that helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons.” This “continuum of care” approach is believed to be best for alleviating homelessness through a community-based process that provides a comprehensive response to the different needs of homeless individuals and families. A comprehensive approach is ensured through having one stream of flexible funding. In applying for funding under the Continuum of Care grant application process, localities are encouraged to shape a comprehensive and coordinated housing and service delivery system called a Continuum of Care. This approach helps communities plan for and provide a balance of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and service resources to address the needs of homeless persons so they can make the critical transition from the streets to jobs and independent living. This Continuum of Care system, as posited by HUD, should also include a homeless prevention component. Beginning in 1994 and continuing in its national grant competitions thereafter, HUD has incorporated the basic tenets of Continuum of Care in the distribution of its homeless assistance funding, resulting in the development of partnerships in many communities throughout the country as well as in Louisiana. Outlined by HUD in its grant application package, the fundamental components of a Continuum of Care system are:

- Outreach and assessment to identify an individual’s or family’s needs and make connections to facilities and services.
- Immediate (emergency) shelter and safe, decent alternatives to the streets.
- Transitional housing with appropriate supportive services to help people reach independent living. Such services include job training and placement, substance abuse treatment, short-term mental health services, and independent living skills training.
- Permanent housing or permanent supportive housing arrangements.

While not all homeless people need access to all components of the Continuum of Care, it is believed that each component must be present within a community for a Continuum of Care to be viable. A Continuum of Care system, as envisioned, shall serve the specific needs of all homeless subpopulations within the community. It is coordinated with as inclusive a group of community representatives as possible, including nonprofit organizations, State and local governmental agencies, housing developers and service providers, private foundations, local businesses and the banking community, neighborhood groups, and homeless or formerly homeless persons. While acting as a framework to bring homeless housing and services and their respective providers together, the Continuum of Care approach emphasizes that "only the community — not HUD — can design a strategy that works best", thus empowering the local community to make decisions on the appropriate allocation of available resources to strengthen and enhance its local Continuum of Care.

The State's 1994 Needs Assessment began a new component: collecting narrative descriptions of "continuum of care" resource systems in each state region. The areas covered in these narratives included: the fundamental component(s) of the local Continuum of Care system currently in place and those the community is working toward; how homeless persons receive or access assistance available under each component; how each homeless subpopulation is reached or will be reached; how the local system facilitates movement of homeless persons from one component of the system to another, and how the components are linked. In defining regional divisions for purposes of this evaluation, the State's sixty-four parishes are organized into ten regions which closely approximate the boundaries of the State's planning districts and the regional state divisions used by most state agencies. Figure 1 on the following page depicts these ten state regions and inclusive parishes.

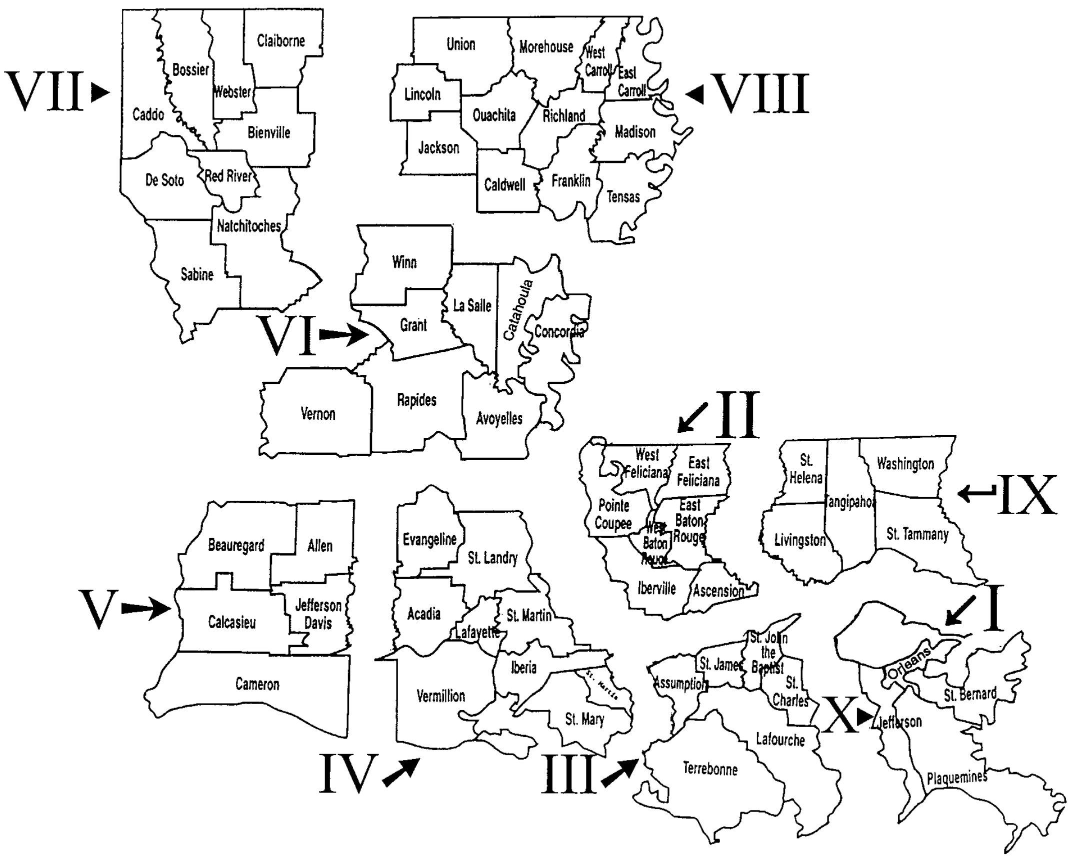
The most recent compilation of regional Continuum of Care descriptions for the State's ten regions is being submitted as a supplemental document to this Consolidated Plan. In the main, these regional descriptions of local resource systems to assist the homeless in Louisiana were excerpted from narrative exhibits which were part of grant applications for the 1998 HUD SuperNOFA competition.

<u>November 17, 1998 Point in Time Homeless Survey</u>
<u>UNITY for the Homeless of New Orleans, and other Regional Coalitions in Louisiana</u>

A major and ambitious initiative to obtain comprehensive, verifiable data on the nature and extent of homelessness and on homeless needs in Louisiana was the Point in Time Survey developed by UNITY for the Homeless of New Orleans and expanded for participation by other state regions. The time period for the survey was the twenty-four hour span: from noon November 17, 1998, through noon November 18, 1998. The two page survey questionnaire comprised an extensive number of data items and was individually administered to all homeless persons and families served or encountered by resource agencies within the point in time period. The New Orleans survey sample included a total of 1,087 unduplicated persons. The survey sample for the other participating state regions was 1,029 (not all state regions participated in the point in time survey; others participated to varying degrees.) UNITY compiled the survey data for New Orleans. The survey questionnaires for the other state regions were compiled by the Louisiana Population Data Center at LSU. The combined survey results for New Orleans and the other participating state regions are presented in Table 4.

FIGURE 1

# STATE REGIONS




Region I (1)
Orleans

Region II (2)
Ascension
E. Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
W. Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region III (3)
Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
Terrebonne

Region IV (4)
Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
St. Mary
Vermilion

Region V (5)
Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jeff. Davis

Region VI (6)
Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
Lasalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Reg. VII (7)
Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
Desoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Reg. VIII (8)
Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region IX (9)
Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

Region X (10)
Jefferson
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

**TABLE 4**

POINT IN TIME HOMELESS NEEDS SURVEY: NOVEMBER 17, 1998
STATE OF LOUISIANA

| | | Orleans Total | Other Regions | State Totals | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RACE** | African-Am | 634 | 466 | 1,100 | 54.98% |
| | Cauc | 285 | 433 | 718 | 35.89% |
| | Native Amer | 23 | 0 | 23 | 1.15% |
| | Asian | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0.20% |
| | Hispanic | 19 | 7 | 26 | 1.31% |
| | Other/No response | 10 | 119 | 129 | 6.46% |
| | | 972 | 1,029 | 2,001 | 100.00% |
| **GENDER** | Male | 735 | 581 | 1,316 | 62.21% |
| | Female | 337 | 437 | 774 | 36.59% |
| | No response | 15 | 10 | 25 | 1.20% |
| | | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |
| **#FAM MEMBERS** | | | | | |
| | 1 person family | 634 | 792 | 1,426 | 67.41% |
| | 2-3 person family | 234 | 150 | 384 | 18.16% |
| | 4+ person family | 219 | 86 | 305 | 14.43% |
| | | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |
| **CURRENT RESIDENCE** | | | | | |
| | Emerg. Shelter | 384 | 287 | 671 | 30.50% |
| | Street/vacant bldg. | 184 | 70 | 254 | 11.54% |
| | Hospital/trtmt facility | 136 | 104 | 240 | 10.91% |
| | Overcrowded housing | 78 | 38 | 116 | 5.28% |
| | Transitional housing | 227 | 262 | 489 | 22.25% |
| | Permanent housing | 111 | 82 | 193 | 8.79% |
| | Other | 51 | 158 | 209 | 9.52% |
| | No response | | 27 | 27 | 1.22% |
| | | 1171 | 1,029 | 2,200 | 100.00% |

| | | Orleans Total | Other Regions | State Totals | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SERVICES NEEDED** | | | | | |
| | Mental Health | 222 | 339 | 561 | 26.49% |
| | Mental Disability | 112 | 194 | 306 | 14.48% |
| | Sub. Abuse Treatmt. | 324 | 271 | 595 | 28.10% |
| | Physical Disability | 132 | 115 | 247 | 11.68% |
| | Food | 445 | 498 | 943 | 44.57% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Clothing | 440 | 483 | 923 | 43.60% |
| | Child Care | 74 | 105 | 179 | 8.46% |
| | First Aid | 173 | 219 | 392 | 18.53% |
| | Medication | 210 | 343 | 553 | 26.12% |
| | Case Mngmt | 280 | 281 | 561 | 26.51% |
| | Job Training | 347 | 335 | 682 | 32.25% |
| | Housing Placement | 496 | 541 | 1,037 | 49.02% |
| | Life skills training | 197 | 277 | 474 | 22.39% |
| | Transportation | 403 | 502 | 905 | 42.78% |
| | | | | | |
| **JOB HISTORY** | | | | | |
| Currently employed | | 342 | 304 | 646 | 30.51% |
| | Unemployed < 1 yr | 223 | 220 | 443 | 20.95% |
| | Unemployed 1-2 yrs | 169 | 126 | 295 | 13.92% |
| | Unemployed > 2 yrs | 228 | 246 | 474 | 22.40% |
| | Never employed | 20 | 77 | 97 | 4.59% |
| | Retired | 4 | 3 | 7 | 0.33% |
| | No response | 101 | 54 | 155 | 7.30% |
| | | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |
| | | | | | |
| **SOURCE OF INCOME** | Employment | 259 | 260 | 519 | 24.54% |
| | Day labor | 126 | 93 | 219 | 10.33% |
| | TANF/welfare | 43 | 63 | 106 | 5.00% |
| | Social Security | 45 | 97 | 142 | 6.70% |
| | SSI Disability | 90 | 177 | 267 | 12.62% |
| | Other | 142 | 159 | 301 | 14.25% |
| | No response | 382 | 180 | 562 | 26.56% |
| | | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |
| | | | | | |
| | | Orleans Total | Other Regions | State Totals | |
| | | | | | |
| **EDUCATION** | Elementary | 197 | 175 | 372 | 17.58% |
| | High school | 372 | 348 | 720 | 34.02% |
| | GED | 81 | 75 | 156 | 7.38% |
| | Vo/tech training | 99 | 97 | 196 | 9.25% |
| | Some college | 204 | 198 | 402 | 18.98% |
| | College grad | 48 | 49 | 97 | 4.60% |
| | Grad school | 6 | 14 | 20 | 0.96% |
| | No response | 80 | 73 | 153 | 7.23% |
| | | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |
| | | | | | |
| **VETERAN STATUS** | No | 771 | 814 | 1,585 | 74.90% |
| | Yes | 227 | 150 | 377 | 17.83% |
| | No response | 89 | 65 | 154 | 7.27% |
| | | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **HEALTH INSURANCE** None | 744 | 614 | 1,358 | 64.19% |
| Medicaid | 115 | 220 | 335 | 15.84% |
| Medicare | 39 | 65 | 104 | 4.91% |
| Private Insurance | 59 | 61 | 120 | 5.66% |
| No response | 130 | 69 | 199 | 9.40% |
| | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |
| | | | | |
| **HOW LONG HOMELESS** | | | | |
| 3 months or less | 240 | 465 | 705 | 33.32% |
| 4-8 months | 173 | 135 | 308 | 14.55% |
| 9 months or more | 443 | 252 | 695 | 32.85% |
| No response | 231 | 177 | 408 | 19.28% |
| | 1087 | 1,029 | 2,116 | 100.00% |
| | | | | |
| **SELF REPORTED SPECIAL NEED** | | | | |
| Chronic substance abuse | 263 | 278 | 541 | 25.56% |
| Mental illness | 165 | 335 | 500 | 23.65% |
| Dual Diagnosis | 79 | | 79 | 3.73% |
| HIV/AIDS | 52 | 46 | 98 | 4.65% |
| Youth | 7 | | 7 | 0.33% |
| Domestic Violence | 47 | 111 | 158 | 7.47% |
| Other | 55 | | 55 | 2.60% |
| | 668 | 771 | 1,439 | 100.00% |
| | | | | |
| **REASON FOR LOSS OF HOUSING** | | | | |
| Eviction | 190 | 78 | 268 | 12.36% |
| Released from jail | 99 | 77 | 176 | 8.12% |
| Released from treatment | 30 | 68 | 98 | 4.51% |
| Loss of employment | 298 | 98 | 396 | 18.24% |
| Loss of spouse/child | 53 | 21 | 74 | 3.39% |
| Parents kicked out | 89 | 32 | 121 | 5.57% |
| Domestic Violence | 42 | 59 | 101 | 4.64% |
| Interpersonal violence | 19 | 12 | 31 | 1.44% |
| By choice | 48 | 97 | 145 | 6.67% |
| Multiple reasons | 0 | 163 | 163 | 7.49% |
| change in family/self* | 171 | 171 | 342 | 15.75% |
| Other | 102 | 28 | 130 | 5.98% |
| No response | 0 | 127 | 127 | 5.83% |
| | 1141 | 1,029 | 2,170 | 100.00% |

*(illness/disability)

1999 Continuum of Care: Gaps Analysis: Aggregate State Totals

Communities applying for HUD homeless assistance grant funding, as part of the development and ongoing refinement of a Continuum of Care strategy, must assess the service and housing needs of homeless persons in their locality, inventory the existing resources available to serve them, and identify gaps in housing and service delivery. This assessment (formulated below) is intended to help ensure that the needs of all homeless persons will be met to the extent practicable.

**Population Need — (minus) Current Inventory = (equals) Continuum of Care Gaps**

The Continuum of Care application requires all applicants for HUD homeless assistance funding to complete a "Gaps Analysis Chart". The data in this chart must be identical for all projects requesting funding under the same local Continuum of Care system.

All regions of Louisiana (with the exception of the Region III parishes of St. Charles, St. James, and St. John) were represented in continuum of care applications under the 1999 HUD Homeless Assistance SuperNOFA. For purposes of evaluating the nature and extent of homeless needs in the State and the State's priority homeless needs, all of the "Gaps Analysis Charts" for each of the State's regions were compiled and the results used in preparing the information entered in the HUD prescribed Table 5. The aggregate/composite Gaps Analysis data for the entire State, all regional figures added together, is shown on the following pages. According to instructions for completing the Gaps Analysis Chart, the estimated need for beds/units as stated on the chart indicates the estimated number of beds that a community would need to accommodate, at one point in time (that is, on a given night) all homeless individuals (upper portion of chart) and families with children (lower portion of chart). When added together, these represent the estimated number of homeless persons in the locality at one point in time. The chart entries for supportive services slots represent the number of slots that the community would need to provide supportive services, at one point in time, to all homeless individuals and families with children. Individual users may be double counted among the supportive service slots since homeless persons may need multiple services.

**Regional Continuum of Care Systems: Gaps Analyses Aggregate State Totals**

| | **HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Estimated Need | Current Inventory | Unmet Need/ Gap | Relative Priority Average Score |
| **Beds/Units** | | | | |
| Emergency Shelter | 3146 | 1684 | 1462 | 1.22 - L |
| Transitional Housing | 3376 | 1722 | 1654 | 2.44 - M/H |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 2855 | 1110 | 1745 | 3.00 - H |
| Total | 9377 | 4516 | 4861 | |
| **Supportive Service Slots** | | | | |
| Job Training | 4997 | 1821 | 3176 | 2.33 - M/H |
| Case Management | 8815 | 2059 | 6756 | 3.00 - H |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Substance Abuse Treatment | 4794 | 1499 | 3295 | 2.56 - H |
| Mental Health Care | 3426 | 1321 | 2105 | 2.44 - M/H |
| Housing Placement | 5024 | 1563 | 3461 | 2.44 - M/H |
| Life Skills Training | 2892 | 967 | 1925 | 2.11 - M |
| **Sub-populations** | | | | |
| Chronic Substance Abusers | 3681 | 2218 | 1463 | 2.33 - M/H |
| Seriously Mentally Ill | 2141 | 998 | 1143 | 2.78 - H |
| Dually-Diagnosed | 1549 | 815 | 734 | 2.67 - H |
| Veterans | 2252 | 757 | 1495 | 1.78 - L/M |
| Persons with HIV/AIDS | 807 | 397 | 410 | 1.33 - L |
| Victims of Domestic Violence | 1119 | 500 | 619 | 2.44 - M/H |
| Youth | 810 | 395 | 415 | 2.00 - M |

**PERSONS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

| | Estimated Need | Current Inventory | Unmet Need/ Gap | Relative Priority Average Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Beds/Units** | | | | |
| Emergency Shelter | 1192 | 673 | 519 | 1.56 - L |
| Transitional Housing | 1604 | 669 | 935 | 2.33 - M/H |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 1492 | 274 | 1218 | 3.00 - H |
| Total | 4288 | 1616 | 2672 | |
| **Supportive Service Slots** | | | | |
| Job Training | 4343 | 3581 | 762 | 1.78 - L/M |
| Case Management | 3009 | 1094 | 1915 | 2.89 - H |
| Child Care | 3952 | 3040 | 912 | 2.33 - M/H |
| Substance Abuse Treatment | 900 | 387 | 513 | 2.11 - M |
| Mental Health Care | 830 | 405 | 425 | 1.67 - L/M |
| Housing Placement | 1625 | 705 | 920 | 2.44 - M/H |
| Life Skills Training | 4667 | 3753 | 914 | 1.78 - L/M |
| **Sub-populations** | | | | |
| Chronic Substance Abusers | 833 | 330 | 503 | 2.33 - M/H |
| Seriously Mentally Ill | 781 | 352 | 429 | 2.28 - M |
| Dually-Diagnosed | 513 | 208 | 305 | 2.11 - M |
| Veterans | 363 | 113 | 250 | 1.44 - L |
| Persons with HIV/AIDS | 515 | 437 | 78 | 1.44 - L |
| Victims of Domestic Violence | 1051 | 474 | 577 | 2.22 - M |

| **Sub-populations:** | Individuals | + Persons in Families w/Chn | Total | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chronic Substance Abusers | 3681 | 833 | 4514 | 33.03% |
| Seriously Mentally Ill | 2141 | 781 | 2922 | 21.38% |
| Dually-Diagnosed | 1467 | 513 | 1980 | 14.49% |
| Veterans | 2252 | 363 | 2615 | 17.31% |
| Persons with HIV/AIDS | 807 | 515 | 1322 | 9.10% |
| Victims of Domestic Violence | 1119 | 1051 | 2170 | 15.87% |
| Youth | 810 | | 810 | 5.93% |

In reviewing the composite relative priorities for residential programs [emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing] as listed in the Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis Chart, it should be noted that emergency shelter is not an eligible cost for grant funding under the Continuum of Care SuperNOFA. It should also be noted that Congressional action imposed a requirement that a minimum of thirty percent of the 1999 Continuum of Care monies be used for permanent housing. Accordingly, the 1999 SuperNOFA contained an incentive that "if a continuum of care's number one priority project qualifies as an eligible, new permanent housing project, then the full amount of that project's activities, up to $250,000, will be added to the final pro rata need amount for the continuum."

As previously referenced, Table 5 identifies the need for facilities and services for homeless individuals and homeless families with children and subpopulations.

Characteristics and Needs of Low-Income Individuals and Families with Children (Especially Extremely Low-Income Who are Currently Housed and Threatened With Homelessness)

On December 8, 1999, HUD published the most comprehensive study ever of homelessness in America. This report, entitled *The Forgotten Americans – Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve,* contained statistics revealing that most people who become homeless have suffered severe hardships – including physical and sexual abuse, childhood trauma, poverty, a poor education, disability and disease.

The study shows homelessness is associated with a broad range of problems. It found that:

- Serious problems since childhood are common among homeless people, with twenty-five percent reporting childhood physical or sexual abuse, thirty-three percent reporting running away from home, and twenty-seven percent saying they lived in foster care, a group home or other institution as a child.

- Homeless people are among the poorest in the nation, with incomes averaging half the federal poverty level. In the thirty days before they were surveyed, single homeless people reported a mean income of $348 and homeless families reported a mean income of $475. In addition, forty percent of homeless people surveyed went without food one or more days in the previous month because they couldn't afford food, compared with a three percent of other poor Americans.

- Health and disability problems are common among homeless people. When survey participants were asked about their health in the previous month, forty-six percent said they had a chronic health problem such as arthritis or cancer, thirty-nine percent reported a mental health problem, thirty-eight percent reported an alcohol problem, and twenty-six percent reported a drug problem. Fifty-five percent said they had no medical insurance.

- Homeless people have low educational levels. They survey found that thirty-eight percent of homeless people have less than a high school diploma, compared with eighteen percent of the overall population. This makes it harder for homeless people to get jobs.

It can be concluded from these findings that persons who are currently housed and threatened with homelessness are those afflicted with the following conditions: histories of adverse childhood experiences e.g. child abuse and family violence, poverty and very low income households, food insecurity and hunger, health and disability problems including addictive disorders and chemical dependency, and low educational levels. The Good Homes Foundation had previously postulated that the lack of support systems, e.g. strong nuclear and extended family, close friends, relationships with faith based organizations and community supportive resources, was a common factor which distinguished homeless families and/or families which are precariously housed (those most at risk of homelessness) from other very low-income and/or destitute families who reside in stable, independent housing situations and/or who are at low risk of homelessness.

The needs of the at-risk population correspondingly involve a comprehensive array of community-based services and assistance inclusive of the following: crisis intervention services, nutritional aid and hunger relief, income support and/or emergency financial assistance, affordable housing programs and/or subsidized housing, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, physical health care and/or medical services, remedial or specialized education and vocational training, socialization and life skills training, employment readiness and job placement assistance. It is also important that these diverse, multidisciplinary services be planned and managed in a coordinated manner to achieve the most effective and beneficial outcomes.

Homeless Demographic Data: Description of Racial/Ethnic Characteristics

Available information derived from state survey data on the composition of the State's homelessness population by racial and ethnic group is listed on page 18 (shelter survey of January 31, 1991) and page 28 (Point-in-Time Survey of November 17, 1998). For each year covered under the State Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 1995-99, as part of the Performance Report on homeless assistance activities funded through the State Emergency Shelter Program, data has been tabulated regarding the racial/ethnic composition of homeless persons served by ESGP assisted facilities. A recent (March, 1999) tabulation yields the following statewide profile:

| **African American** | **White** | **Hispanic** | **Asian** | **American Indian** | **Multi-racial/ Unknown** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 55.30% | 42.09% | 1.84% | .26% | .37% | .14% |

The data indicates that a disproportionate number of the clientele served by these homeless facilities are members of minority racial/ethnic groups, particularly African-Americans. This racial/ethnic profile of homeless shelter clients closely mirrors the racial/ethnic composition of the state's poverty population. Other studies of homelessness have also evidenced this correlation between homelessness and conditions of poverty.

HUD's recent report (December, 1999) on homelessness in America. *The Forgotten Americans - Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve*, included the following statistics on homeless persons served by resource agencies surveyed throughout the United States:

Basic Characteristics of Homeless Family Households (data from national report)

- If each homeless client is an adult representing a homeless household, fifteen percent of these are family households (that is, the clients have one or more of their own children under age eighteen with them). On average, each homeless family household includes 2.2 minor children of the client. If children are included as part of the total, thirty-four percent of homeless service users are members of homeless families. Twenty-three percent are minor children and eleven percent are their parents.

- Of parent-clients in homeless families: eighty-four percent are female and sixteen percent are male. Thirty-eight percent are white non-Hispanic, forty-three percent are black non-Hispanic, fifteen percent are Hispanic, three percent are Native American, and one percent are other races. Twenty-six percent are ages seventeen to twenty-four, seventy-four percent are ages twenty-five to fifty-four, and less than 0.5 percent are ages fifty-five and older. Forty-one percent have never married, twenty-three percent are married, twenty-three percent are separated, thirteen percent are divorced, and none are widowed. Fifty-three percent have less than a high school education, twenty-one percent have completed high school, and twenty-seven percent have some education beyond high school.

Basic Characteristics of Single Homeless Clients (data from national report)

- Most homeless clients (eighty-five percent) are single (that is, they do not have any of their children with them).

- Seventy-seven percent are male and twenty-three percent are female.

- Forty-one percent are white non-Hispanic, forty percent are black non-Hispanic, ten percent are Hispanic, eight percent are Native American, and one percent are other races.

- Ten percent are ages seventeen to twenty-four, eighty-one percent are ages twenty-five to fifty-four, and nine percent are ages fifty-five and older. Fifty percent have never married, seven percent are married, fourteen percent are separated, twenty-six percent are divorced, and four percent are widowed. Thirty-seven percent have less than a high school education, thirty-six percent have completed high school, and twenty-eight percent have some education beyond high school.

## OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

Homelessness is not a new phenomenon in the United States. Housing should be regarded as an essential element of the treatment plan for people infected with HIV/AIDS. For most people, having stable housing is associated with having a sense of well-being, independence, and health. For those infected with HIV/AIDS, housing also provides a point of contact from which to arrange or receive community-based health and social services. Adequate housing is particularly critical for mothers and pregnant women infected with HIV/AIDS. Yet many communities state-wide have reported that housing is the single largest area of unmet need for people with HIV/AIDS.

Unlike other populations with special housing needs, the housing needs of people with AIDS change as the disease progresses. Thus, throughout the progression of the disease, the ability to find affordable housing and to remain in one's home is a constant stress for persons who are HIV infected. Therefore short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments, shelter and a further continuum of rental assistance are universal needs. As health diminishes, persons living with HIV/AIDS experience significant need for ancillary and supportive services.

The overall housing goal of the Office of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Program is to increase the availability and types of housing for persons who are HIV infected, including group homes, community residences, and emergency short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance payments. The State of Louisiana has a genuine commitment to assure that there is at least one supported-living residential program for persons with AIDS (PWA) in each region of the State.

The activities included in the Consolidated Plan are designed to overcome obstacles and meet the under served needs for low and moderate income persons. The needs of persons with HIV/AIDS are ongoing; therefore, the HOPWA contractors need financial assistance annually. Examples of those needs are identified in the following paragraphs. Those needs were addressed by the funds provided to the HOPWA contractors (HIV/AIDS community based organizations and residential facilities) during the FY 1998 program year.

In Louisiana, housing funds for people with HIV and AIDS are provided through Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), the Ryan White CARE Act – Title II, and private sources. Because people with AIDS and HIV are now living longer, their housing needs have changed dramatically from what they were only a few years ago.

Access to adequate housing is a problem for many people with HIV or AIDS. The cost of medicine and treatment, rising rents, housing discrimination, and a shortage of affordable housing can present major obstacles for people with AIDS and HIV. A more extreme housing issue, but one that affects many people with HIV and AIDS, is homelessness. Homeless people suffer higher rates of many diseases, including HIV, than the general population. Homelessness often occurs in combination with chronic mental illness, substance abuse, and unsafe sexual behavior - all factors that heighten the risk of HIV infection. Homeless people, especially women and youth, may also engage in survival sex-exchanging sex for housing, food, money and drugs.

Housing should be regarded as an essential element of the treatment plan for people infected with HIV/AIDS. For most people, having stable housing is associated with having a sense of well-being, independence, and health. For those infected with HIV/AIDS, housing also provides a point of contact from which to arrange or receive community-based health and social services. Adequate housing is particularly critical for mothers and pregnant women infected with the HIV/AIDS. Many communities throughout the state have reported that housing is the single largest area of unmet need for people with HIV/AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS Program, in an effort to solicit input from consumers and providers to guide the program funding to services of greatest need, requested individuals with HIV/AIDS around the State to complete a 1998-99 Louisiana HIV/AIDS Needs Survey. This survey was primarily funded with Ryan White Title II funds. The 1998-99 Needs Assessment process included a state-wide distributed

Table 5

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Homeless Populations and Subpopulations

Name of State or Sub-State Area: Louisiana

| | TOTAL # | | TOTAL NUMBER SERVED BY | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Part 1: HOMELESS POPULATION | Homeless (a+c+d) | Homeless Unsheltered (a) | Reception/Day Centers (b) | Emergency Shelters (c) | Transitional Housing (d) |
| **FAMILIES with CHILDREN** | | | | | |
| 1. Number Homeless Families | 848 * | 441 | | 204 | 203 |
| 2. Number Persons in Homeless Families | 2796* | 1454 | | 673 | 669 |
| **INDIVIDUALS not in FAMILIES** | | | | | |
| 3. YOUTH(17 or Younger) | 746 | 351 | | 238 | 157 |
| 4. ADULTS(18+ years of Age) | 7984 * | 4578 | | 1684 | 1722 |
| TOTAL (lines 2 + 3 + 4) | 11526 | 6383 | | 2595 | 2548 |

| **Part 2: SUBPOPULATIONS** | % OF Total | **Part 2: Line 6** | % of Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **HOMELESS Persons with Service Needs Related To:** | | | |
| 1. Severe Mental Illness (SMI) Only | 24.0*** | | |
| 2. Alcohol/Other Drug Abuse Only | 42** | | |
| 3. SMI and Alcohol/Other Drug Abuse | 12.5*** | | |
| 4. Domestic Violence | 15.6** | | |
| 5. AIDS/Related Diseases | 8.3*** | | |
| 6. Other (specify) Physical Disability | 5** | | |

Data Sources:

*Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis Charts, All state regions, 1999 Homeless Assistance SuperNOFA applications

**Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homeless, State Homeless Needs Assessment, Survey of Shelters and Transitional Housing Facilities
Estimates by facility operators of clientele with special service needs (point in time count)

***Point in Time Homelessness Survey, Nov. 17, 1998, UNITY for the Homeless of New Orleans.
Average number of persons in homeless families (@ 3.3 members per family group) is based on UNITY Point in Time survey data.

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survey that was sent to both consumers (people living with HIV/AIDS) and HIV/AIDS services providers. A total of 736 valid client responses were returned for analysis. The results from the 1998-99 Needs Assessment are as follows.

According to the 1998-1999 Louisiana HIV/AIDS Needs Survey Report, nearly half of the respondents (forty-two percent) live in their own house /apartment/room with family or friends. A sizeable portion (twenty-one percent) live in a friend's or relative's home; nineteen percent live alone. There may be some overlap between these groups and the seven percent who live in public housing. People living in housing for persons living with AIDS account for four percent of the survey population.

The fact that few surveyed consumers (three percent) report living in a shelter, a drug or alcohol treatment facility, a nursing home, or on the street, may be due to the locations in which surveys were distributed. Individuals living in places listed above may not require or may not have access to some of the ambulatory service agencies used in the survey process.

Statewide

Where Consumers Live n = 716

| Place of Residence | % |
|---|---|
| On the street | 1% |
| In a shelter | 0% |
| With a friend or relative in their home | 21% |
| In public housing | 7% |
| In a drug or alcohol treatment center | 1% |
| In my house, apartment or room with friends or family | 42% |
| In a house for people with AIDS | 4% |
| In a nursing home | 1% |
| Alone | 19% |
| Other | 6% |

**LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARDS**

In the early 1900's detailed information on the hazards of lead in our environment began to surface. A study in Britain attributed exposures to lead with high rates of infertility, stillbirths and first year infant deaths. An Australian study, which was published at about the same time, observed lead poisoning among children and identified household dust and paint as the sources of the lead.

Lead was banned from residential usage in 1978. Prior to governmental intervention, some interior paints contained more than 50 percent (500,000ppm) lead. It is estimated that 57 million older homes, more than half of the total U.S. housing stock, contains some lead based paint. Lead based paint was also used and is found in paint existing on exterior walls, trim, porches, stairs, outdoor and indoor furniture, garages, outdoor play equipment and many other household items.

According to the 1990 census, there were 1,716,241 housing units in the State of Louisiana. Of that number, approximately 1,334,687 housing units or 77.9 percent were built prior to 1980 and 179,305 housing units or 10.6 percent were built prior to 1940 as shown in Table 6. As was stated in the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) which was prepared in 1994 by the

Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, based upon HUD's Comprehensive and Workable Plan, approximately ninety percent of the State's housing units built before 1940 are likely to contain lead-based paint, approximately eighty percent of the housing units built between 1940 and 1959 are likely to contain lead based paint, and approximately sixty-two percent of the housing units built between 1960 and 1979 are likely to contain lead based paint. Utilizing HUD's percentages, it is estimated that approximately fifty-six percent (747,425) of the total housing units in Louisiana built prior to 1980 contain lead based paint.

The numbers reflected in the table and the preceding paragraph provide a glimpse of the extent of the potential lead based paint problem in interior painted surfaces of housing units in Louisiana. The information in the tables do not reflect the extent to which lead based paint may exist on exterior walls, trim, porches, stairs, outdoor and indoor furniture, garages, outdoor play equipment, and other household items. Additionally, the extent of exposure to transferred lead contaminated dust into the home as a result of a family member's occupational exposure or exposure while engaging in hobby related activities is not reflected.

There is no data available regarding the income levels of the families residing in homes that contain lead based paint; therefore, it is impossible to estimate the number of housing units within the State that are occupied by low-income families or moderate-income families that contain lead based paint hazards.

TABLE 6

AGE OF HOUSING UNITS BY PARISH

| PARISH | Housing Units Built Prior to 1940 | | Housing Units Built Prior to 1980 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | # | percent | # | percent |
| Acadia | 2,852 | 13.3 | 16,853 | 78.6 |
| Allen | 1,034 | 12.5 | 6,306 | 76.2 |
| Ascension | 1,058 | 5.0 | 13,990 | 66.1 |
| Assumption | 830 | 9.6 | 6,716 | 77.7 |
| Avoyelles | 1,512 | 9.8 | 12,327 | 79.9 |
| Beauregard | 899 | 7.1 | 9,411 | 74.3 |
| Bienville | 829 | 11.7 | 5,555 | 78.4 |
| Bossier** | 1,400 | 4.0 | 24,706 | 70.6 |
| Caddo** | 9,685 | 9.0 | 87,061 | 80.9 |
| Calcasieu** | 4,716 | 7.1 | 52,609 | 79.2 |
| Caldwell | 358 | 7.9 | 3,250 | 71.7 |
| Cameron | 362 | 7.2 | 3,960 | 78.7 |
| Catahoula | 437 | 8.5 | 4,044 | 78.7 |
| Claiborne | 1,112 | 14.8 | 5,980 | 79.6 |
| Concordia | 524 | 5.8 | 7,262 | 80.3 |
| DeSoto | 1,015 | 9.3 | 8,222 | 75.3 |
| East Baton Rouge** | 8,152 | 5.2 | 119,456 | 76.2 |
| East Carroll | 395 | 11.1 | 3,057 | 85.8 |
| East Feliciana | 563 | 8.7 | 4,281 | 66.1 |
| Evangeline | 1,012 | 7.6 | 10,381 | 77.9 |
| Franklin | 706 | 8.1 | 7,237 | 83.0 |
| Grant | 570 | 7.6 | 5,426 | 72.4 |
| Iberia | 2,522 | 9.9 | 19,715 | 77.4 |
| Iberville | 1,748 | 15.4 | 8,684 | 76.5 |
| Jackson | 810 | 11.5 | 5,668 | 80.5 |
| Jefferson* | 7,773 | 4.2 | 152,684 | 82.5 |
| Jefferson Davis | 1,747 | 14.6 | 9,726 | 81.3 |
| Lafayette** | 3,641 | 5.4 | 47,539 | 70.5 |
| Lafourche** | 2,663 | 8.5 | 24,502 | 78.2 |
| LaSalle | 692 | 11.6 | 4,602 | 77.1 |
| Lincoln | 1,192 | 7.8 | 11,617 | 76.0 |
| Livingston | 1,154 | 4.3 | 17,720 | 66.0 |
| Madison | 535 | 11.1 | 4,109 | 85.2 |
| Morehouse | 825 | 6.7 | 10,208 | 82.9 |
| Natchitoches | 1,430 | 9.4 | 11,453 | 75.3 |
| Orleans* | 74,890 | 33.2 | 203,241 | 90.1 |
| Ouachita** | 3,885 | 6.9 | 44,533 | 79.1 |
| Plaquemines | 490 | 5.2 | 7,263 | 77.0 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pointe Coupee | 1,037 | 10.7 | 7,397 | 76.3 |
| Rapides | 4,765 | 9.3 | 40,227 | 78.5 |
| Red River | 307 | 8.0 | 2,829 | 73.7 |
| Richland | 699 | 8.7 | 6,561 | 81.7 |
| Sabine | 895 | 7.0 | 8,735 | 68.3 |
| St. Bernard | 754 | 3.0 | 19,539 | 77.7 |
| St. Charles | 753 | 4.7 | 10,122 | 63.2 |
| St. Helena | 288 | 7.5 | 2,780 | 72.4 |
| St. James | 652 | 9.4 | 5,575 | 80.4 |
| St. John the Baptist | 898 | 6.3 | 8,539 | 59.9 |
| St. Landry | 3,020 | 9.7 | 24,723 | 79.4 |
| St. Martin | 1,179 | 6.7 | 12,455 | 70.8 |
| St. Mary | 2,342 | 10.7 | 17,857 | 81.6 |
| St. Tammany** | 301 | 5.2 | 34,158 | 58.9 |
| Tangipahoa | 2,994 | 8.9 | 23,851 | 70.9 |
| Tensas | 330 | 9.9 | 2,754 | 82.6 |
| Terrebonne* | 2,479 | 7.0 | 27,660 | 78.1 |
| Union | 642 | 6.9 | 6,736 | 72.4 |
| Vermilion | 2,443 | 12.0 | 15,943 | 78.3 |
| Vernon | 822 | 3.8 | 12,757 | 59.0 |
| Washington | 2,237 | 12.7 | 13,900 | 78.9 |
| Webster | 1,616 | 8.8 | 14,986 | 81.6 |
| West Baton Rouge | 555 | 7.6 | 5,050 | 69.2 |
| West Carroll | 444 | 9.2 | 3,744 | 77.5 |
| West Feliciana | 204 | 6.0 | 2,018 | 59.5 |
| Winn | 631 | 9.0 | 5,437 | 77.6 |
| TOTAL | 179,305 | 10.6 | 1,334,687 | 77.9 |

* Exclusively entitlement area
** Includes both entitlement and non-entitlement areas

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing

## HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

According to the 1990 Census, there were 1,716,241 housing units in Louisiana. A more recent 1997 Census Report (St-96-20R) estimates 1,780,000 units which is a 3.5 percent increase over the 1990 level. Single-family homes continue to account for over two-thirds of Louisiana=s total housing inventory. The U.S. Census Bureau reported in the First Quarter 1999 Housing Vacancies and Homeownership Survey that 66.6 percent of Louisiana households live in homes they own.

With effective mortgage interest rates and unemployment at their lowest levels in the last three decades, according to the Joint Center of Housing Studies of Harvard University, the national homeownership rate reached a new high of 66.3 percent in 1998 and has continued to rise in the first quarter of 1999 to a record 66.7 percent.

Since the 1990s, national homeownership has increased by 4.22 percent, from sixty-four percent in the 1990s to 66.7 percent through the first quarter in 1999. Although declines in mortgage interest rates and low unemployment have led to an increase in homeownership over the past five years, lower earnings and rising home prices have made homeownership more difficult if not impossible for many residents of the State desiring to achieve the AAmerican Dream@.

Lower mortgage interest rates and specially tailored mortgage loan programs have given a significant rise to low-income homebuying. Between 1993 and 1997, loans to buyers with incomes less than eighty percent of the local median increased by thirty-eight percent, compared with twenty-five percent for higher-income buyers. At the same time, the minority share of first-time homebuyers climbed from twenty-two percent to nearly thirty percent.

The Legg Mason Study estimated a statewide vacancy rate for all housing units in 1995 of 8.8 percent. Homeownership units constituted approximately 65.9 percent of the occupied supply: 1, 023,675 homeowners in 1995 with the remaining 529,702 units being renter occupied. The study estimates the number of Asubstandard@ housing units in the State in order to put into perspective the supply-side issue of the quality of the housing stock available to low and moderate income households in Louisiana. ASubstandard@, according to the study, refers to housing units which are in need of substantial rehabilitation in order to make them structurally sound, safe, and habitable.

Using the working definition of Asubstandard A developed above, a statistical model of substandard housing conditions in the State was developed by using 1990 Census data as baseline information, updated to 1998 by Legg Mason projections and information obtained in the 1998 Annual Statistics Report. The results have been weighted in accordance to correlations demonstrated in the **American Housing Survey**. This model has been tested and proven reasonable in other states.

This statistical model provides the core of the substandard housing analysis: occupied housing units. Strong correlations have been consistently demonstrated between household income and severe physical problems: the lower a household=s income, the higher its likelihood of experiencing substandard conditions.

In Table 7, findings from the Legg Mason study are presented concerning the number of substandard housing units in the State of Louisiana and their location on a parish basis in 1995. The estimated total number of structurally substandard housing units in Louisiana in 1995 was approximately 119,175 units or 6.7 percent of the State=s existing housing stock. The study estimated that 54,938 occupied housing units are in need of substantial repairs to make them structurally sound, safe and habitable. Additionally, the supply of vacant and abandoned housing units in the State needing substantial rehabilitation is conservatively estimated at over 64,000 units.

The report also estimates that over one quarter of the estimated 1,572,000 households in the State in 1998 were considered to be Aat risk.” AAt risk@ refers to households that are inclusive of excessive housing cost burdens for both homeowners and renters, overcrowded units and sub-standard housing units. In Table 8 of the Legg Mason study, research findings are presented concerning the number of low income households in the State of Louisiana which were considered at risk due to socio-economics factors in 1995.

According to a more recent housing study published in March, 1999, ***Waiting in Vain: An Update on America=s Rental Housing Crisis*,** the affordable housing shortage is worsening for some of the Nation=s poorest families. Families with worst case needs are those who earn less than fifty percent of their area median income and pay more than half of their income for rent or live in severely substandard housing. In Louisiana, the households mostly affected are the elderly, single head of households with children, and large households.

The 1990 Census reported that 45.7 percent of Louisiana renters (244,257 households) and one in five homeowners (207,504 households) had monthly costs that were thirty percent or more of their household income. Unfortunately, according to a recent report, **America=s Affordable Housing Crisis**, the strong economy that has improved the lives of most Americans has worsened the crisis-level shortage of affordable housing. Renter households typically have lower incomes than homeowner households and are much more likely to be spending a higher proportion of their limited incomes on housing expenses.

$ In 1990, the percentage of units with more than one person per room was six percent of the total number of housing units in Louisiana. Although this proportion is still considerably higher than the national average of 4.9 percent, Louisiana experienced a sharp drop from the 1980 rate of 7.1 percent as opposed to the national trend, which increased by four-tenths of a percent.

$ In 1990, 1.3 percent of Louisiana=s homes lacked complete plumbing facilities; 1.3 percent lacked complete kitchen facilities.

$ Although the State=s median value of one-family, owner-occupied houses increased from $43,000 in 1980 to $58,000 in 1990, this actually represented a 14 percent decline in real value when inflation was taken into consideration. At the national level, the median value of owner-occupied housing units increased from $47,000 to $79,000 in 1990 constant dollars. Of all owner units, 86.3 percent have a fair market value of $99,000 of less.

TABLE 7

SUBSTANDARD HOUSING
LOUISIANA BY PARISH
1995

| Parish | Occupied Housing Total Households | Sub-standard Units | Percent | Vacant Housing 1990 Total | Sub-standard Units | Percent | Well & Septic 1990 Total | Failing Units | Total Housing Inventory 1995 Total | Sub-standard Units | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acadia | 19,884 | 479 | 2.41% | 2,156 | 168 | 7.77% | 8,185 | 409 | 22,035 | 1,056 | 4.79% |
| Allen | 7,616 | 193 | 2.53% | 1,195 | 433 | 36.27% | 3,736 | 187 | 8,338 | 813 | 9.75% |
| Ascension | 21,372 | 407 | 1.91% | 1,828 | 100 | 5.47% | 11,930 | 597 | 21,276 | 1,104 | 5.19% |
| Assumption | 7,877 | 174 | 2.21% | 1,247 | 459 | 36.83% | 7,322 | 366 | 8,955 | 999 | 11.16% |
| Avoyelles | 13,329 | 325 | 2.44% | 1,948 | 615 | 31.58% | 7,737 | 387 | 16,027 | 1,327 | 8.28% |
| Beauregard | 10,599 | 222 | 2.09% | 2,304 | 1,244 | 54.00% | 7,664 | 383 | 12,818 | 1,849 | 14.43% |
| Bienville | 6,012 | 141 | 2.35% | 1,233 | 632 | 51.24% | 4,068 | 203 | 7,092 | 977 | 13.77% |
| Bossier | 32,434 | 621 | 1.91% | 4,276 | 1,033 | 24.15% | 7,390 | 370 | 37,207 | 2,023 | 5.44% |
| Caddo | 93,649 | 1,961 | 2.09% | 14,367 | 5,002 | 34.82% | 12,809 | 640 | 109,469 | 7,603 | 6.95% |
| Calcasieu | 64,049 | 1,274 | 1.99% | 6,098 | 100 | 1.64% | 19,775 | 989 | 70,004 | 2,363 | 3.38% |
| Caldwell | 3,399 | 81 | 2.37% | 958 | 618 | 64.52% | 2,723 | 136 | 4,565 | 835 | 18.29% |
| Cameron | 3,247 | 66 | 2.03% | 1,878 | 1,553 | 82.71% | 3,869 | 193 | 5,140 | 1,813 | 35.26% |
| Catahoula | 3,777 | 89 | 2.35% | 1,211 | 833 | 68.81% | 3,495 | 175 | 5,230 | 1,097 | 20.97% |
| Claiborne | 6,198 | 152 | 2.45% | 1,448 | 828 | 57.20% | 3,551 | 178 | 7,520 | 1,157 | 15.39% |
| Concordia | 7,096 | 162 | 2.29% | 1,702 | 992 | 58.31% | 3,867 | 193 | 9,151 | 1,348 | 14.73% |
| De Soto | 9,102 | 220 | 2.41% | 1,790 | 880 | 49.15% | 6,076 | 304 | 10,944 | 1,403 | 12.82% |
| East Baton Rouge | 148,546 | 2,896 | 1.95% | 18,147 | 3,292 | 18.14% | 9,404 | 470 | 164,922 | 6,658 | 4.04% |
| East Carroll | 2,924 | 79 | 2.71% | 434 | 142 | 32.63% | 1,345 | 67 | 3,608 | 288 | 7.99% |
| East Feliciana | 5,740 | 127 | 2.22% | 887 | 313 | 35.29% | 4,341 | 217 | 6,487 | 657 | 10.14% |
| Evangeline | 12,193 | 299 | 2.45% | 1,516 | 297 | 19.57% | 5,926 | 296 | 13,586 | 892 | 6.57% |
| Franklin | 7,787 | 181 | 2.33% | 943 | 164 | 17.42% | 5,040 | 252 | 8,896 | 597 | 6.72% |
| Grant | 6,598 | 156 | 2.36% | 1,233 | 573 | 46.49% | 5,274 | 264 | 7,497 | 993 | 13.24% |
| Iberia | 24,850 | 538 | 2.16% | 2,625 | 140 | 5.33% | 7,047 | 352 | 26,389 | 1,030 | 3.90% |
| Iberville | 10,010 | 214 | 2.14% | 1,477 | 476 | 32.23% | 5,727 | 286 | 11,451 | 977 | 8.53% |
| Jackson | 5,618 | 128 | 2.27% | 1,224 | 662 | 54.10% | 3,089 | 154 | 7,049 | 944 | 13.40% |
| Jefferson | 173,182 | 3,332 | 1.92% | 18,674 | 1,356 | 7.26% | 4,588 | 229 | 189,633 | 4,917 | 2.59% |
| Jefferson Davis | 10,808 | 252 | 2.33% | 1,294 | 213 | 16.48% | 4,173 | 209 | 12,133 | 674 | 5.56% |
| Lafayette | 64,713 | 1,318 | 2.04% | 7,020 | 549 | 7.82% | 12,362 | 618 | 71,363 | 2,485 | 3.48% |
| Lafourche | 31,208 | 673 | 2.16% | 2,497 | 100 | 4.00% | 20,169 | 1,008 | 32,693 | 1,781 | 5.45% |
| La Salle | 4,535 | 100 | 2.21% | 883 | 430 | 48.64% | 2,603 | 130 | 5,969 | 660 | 11.06% |
| Lincoln | 14,747 | 322 | 2.19% | 1,617 | 142 | 8.80% | 5,055 | 253 | 15,704 | 717 | 4.57% |
| Livingston | 26,075 | 496 | 1.90% | 3,034 | 426 | 14.06% | 16,993 | 850 | 28,341 | 1,772 | 6.25% |
| Madison | 3,669 | 92 | 2.52% | 571 | 204 | 35.74% | 998 | 50 | 4,837 | 346 | 7.16% |
| Morehouse | 10,405 | 232 | 2.23% | 1,353 | 312 | 23.10% | 4,795 | 240 | 12,407 | 784 | 6.32% |
| Natchitoches | 12,656 | 302 | 2.39% | 2,566 | 1,300 | 50.68% | 7,097 | 355 | 15,421 | 1,958 | 12.69% |
| Orleans | 183,039 | 4,191 | 2.29% | 37,338 | 19,034 | 50.98% | 1,814 | 91 | 226,614 | 23,316 | 10.29% |
| Ouachita | 54,377 | 1,180 | 2.17% | 5,782 | 344 | 5.95% | 9,710 | 486 | 58,263 | 2,010 | 3.45% |
| Plaquemines | 8,668 | 181 | 2.09% | 1,219 | 352 | 28.89% | 1,680 | 84 | 9,574 | 617 | 6.45% |
| Pointe Coupee | 7,646 | 170 | 2.22% | 1,959 | 1,194 | 60.97% | 5,810 | 291 | 9,988 | 1,655 | 16.57% |
| Rapides | 47,480 | 1,047 | 2.21% | 5,298 | 550 | 10.38% | 16,811 | 841 | 52,328 | 2,438 | 4.66% |
| Red River | 3,128 | 78 | 2.49% | 518 | 205 | 39.61% | 2,545 | 127 | 3,908 | 410 | 10.50% |
| Richland | 6,803 | 164 | 2.41% | 952 | 272 | 28.54% | 4,300 | 215 | 8,118 | 651 | 8.01% |
| Sabine | 7,624 | 178 | 2.33% | 4,428 | 3,666 | 82.78% | 9,240 | 462 | 12,805 | 4,306 | 33.63% |
| St. Bernard | 24,957 | 485 | 1.94% | 1,991 | 100 | 5.02% | 1,702 | 85 | 26,473 | 670 | 2.53% |
| St. Charles | 15,677 | 288 | 1.84% | 1,683 | 115 | 6.85% | 1,100 | 55 | 17,232 | 459 | 2.66% |
| St. Helena | 3,402 | 80 | 2.35% | 512 | 172 | 33.55% | 3,372 | 169 | 3,899 | 420 | 10.78% |
| St. James | 6,543 | 140 | 2.15% | 502 | 100 | 19.92% | 3,999 | 200 | 7,029 | 440 | 6.26% |
| St. John the Baptist | 13,844 | 272 | 1.96% | 1,545 | 161 | 10.39% | 2,582 | 129 | 14,255 | 561 | 3.94% |
| St. Landry | 27,278 | 659 | 2.42% | 3,660 | 932 | 25.47% | 12,437 | 622 | 31,928 | 2,213 | 6.93% |
| St. Martin | 15,445 | 350 | 2.27% | 2,958 | 1,414 | 47.79% | 10,156 | 508 | 18,116 | 2,271 | 12.54% |
| St. Mary | 19,317 | 425 | 2.20% | 2,428 | 496 | 20.44% | 3,303 | 165 | 22,230 | 1,086 | 4.89% |
| St. Tammany | 56,882 | 1,064 | 1.87% | 7,647 | 1,959 | 25.62% | 25,135 | 1,257 | 66,698 | 4,279 | 6.42% |
| Tangipahoa | 30,723 | 703 | 2.29% | 3,977 | 905 | 22.75% | 17,984 | 899 | 35,511 | 2,506 | 7.06% |
| Tensas | 2,287 | 57 | 2.50% | 819 | 590 | 72.08% | 1,361 | 68 | 3,376 | 716 | 21.20% |
| Terrebonne | 33,650 | 724 | 2.15% | 3,579 | 214 | 5.98% | 13,155 | 658 | 37,176 | 1,595 | 4.29% |
| Union | 7,475 | 167 | 2.23% | 1,776 | 1,029 | 57.91% | 5,663 | 283 | 9,355 | 1,479 | 15.81% |
| Vermilion | 18,383 | 432 | 2.35% | 2,599 | 761 | 29.27% | 10,107 | 505 | 21,116 | 1,698 | 8.04% |
| Vernon | 21,663 | 447 | 2.07% | 2,511 | 345 | 13.73% | 9,817 | 491 | 21,767 | 1,283 | 5.89% |
| Washington | 15,403 | 370 | 2.40% | 2,142 | 602 | 28.09% | 9,157 | 458 | 17,915 | 1,429 | 7.98% |
| Webster | 15,841 | 358 | 2.26% | 2,516 | 932 | 37.04% | 7,509 | 375 | 18,427 | 1,666 | 9.04% |
| West Baton Rouge | 6,732 | 132 | 1.96% | 692 | 19 | 2.72% | 3,103 | 155 | 7,747 | 306 | 3.95% |
| West Carroll | 4,393 | 103 | 2.34% | 437 | 50 | 11.44% | 3,336 | 167 | 4,838 | 320 | 6.61% |
| West Feliciana | 2,877 | 64 | 2.24% | 651 | 363 | 55.81% | 1,962 | 98 | 3,598 | 526 | 14.62% |
| Winn | 5,936 | 139 | 2.35% | 1,219 | 625 | 51.30% | 3,685 | 184 | 7,010 | 949 | 13.54% |
| LOUISIANA | 1,553,377 | 32,953 | 2.12% | 216,972 | 64,083 | 29.54% | 442,758 | 22,138 | 1,771,447 | 119,175 | 6.73% |

Source: LMRG; 1990 U.S. Census; American Housing Survey; U.S. Census C-40 Reports.

TABLE 8

# AT RISK HOUSEHOLDS IN 1995
# HOUSEHOLDS EARNING LESS THAN MEDIAN INCOME
# LOUISIANA BY PARISH

| Parish | Total | Cost-Burdened | | | Over- | Affected Households | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Households | Owner | Renter | Total | Crowded | At Risk | Unduplicated | Percent |
| Acadia | 19,884 | 1,684 | 2,743 | 4,427 | 1,520 | 5,947 | 4,137 | 20.80% |
| Allen | 7,616 | 854 | 1,007 | 1,861 | 424 | 2,284 | 1,717 | 22.54% |
| Ascension | 21,372 | 1,359 | 2,156 | 3,515 | 1,105 | 4,620 | 3,274 | 15.32% |
| Assumption | 7,877 | 817 | 594 | 1,411 | 696 | 2,107 | 1,339 | 17.01% |
| Avoyelles | 13,329 | 1,379 | 1,486 | 2,865 | 741 | 3,606 | 2,653 | 19.90% |
| Beauregard | 10,599 | 704 | 1,118 | 1,822 | 494 | 2,316 | 1,689 | 15.94% |
| Bienville | 6,012 | 740 | 532 | 1,272 | 390 | 1,662 | 1,184 | 19.69% |
| Bossier | 32,434 | 1,838 | 4,416 | 6,254 | 1,359 | 7,612 | 5,764 | 17.77% |
| Caddo | 93,649 | 7,635 | 14,614 | 22,250 | 4,384 | 26,633 | 20,463 | 21.85% |
| Calcasieu | 64,049 | 3,251 | 6,577 | 9,828 | 2,612 | 12,440 | 9,106 | 14.22% |
| Caldwell | 3,399 | 390 | 340 | 730 | 137 | 867 | 671 | 19.73% |
| Cameron | 3,247 | 298 | 109 | 407 | 210 | 617 | 388 | 11.94% |
| Catahoula | 3,777 | 495 | 317 | 812 | 293 | 1,105 | 760 | 20.12% |
| Claiborne | 6,198 | 680 | 638 | 1,318 | 245 | 1,564 | 1,211 | 19.54% |
| Concordia | 7,096 | 740 | 840 | 1,580 | 450 | 2,030 | 1,467 | 20.67% |
| De Soto | 9,102 | 978 | 1,222 | 2,200 | 524 | 2,724 | 2,032 | 22.33% |
| East Baton Rouge | 148,546 | 7,904 | 25,510 | 33,414 | 6,541 | 39,955 | 30,727 | 20.69% |
| East Carroll | 2,924 | 480 | 598 | 1,078 | 267 | 1,345 | 997 | 34.10% |
| East Feliciana | 5,740 | 572 | 595 | 1,167 | 447 | 1,614 | 1,095 | 19.08% |
| Evangeline | 12,193 | 1,184 | 1,652 | 2,835 | 896 | 3,732 | 2,642 | 21.66% |
| Franklin | 7,787 | 785 | 823 | 1,608 | 481 | 2,089 | 1,495 | 19.20% |
| Grant | 6,598 | 774 | 634 | 1,408 | 332 | 1,740 | 1,301 | 19.72% |
| Iberia | 24,850 | 1,741 | 3,075 | 4,816 | 1,980 | 6,795 | 4,532 | 18.24% |
| Iberville | 10,010 | 919 | 1,119 | 2,038 | 781 | 2,818 | 1,912 | 19.10% |
| Jackson | 5,618 | 510 | 590 | 1,100 | 232 | 1,332 | 1,013 | 18.03% |
| Jefferson | 173,182 | 12,449 | 27,003 | 39,452 | 7,815 | 47,267 | 36,289 | 20.95% |
| Jefferson Davis | 10,808 | 1,139 | 1,160 | 2,298 | 561 | 2,860 | 2,125 | 19.66% |
| Lafayette | 64,713 | 3,853 | 9,892 | 13,745 | 3,203 | 16,948 | 12,691 | 19.61% |
| Lafourche | 31,208 | 2,354 | 3,279 | 5,633 | 2,204 | 7,836 | 5,290 | 16.95% |
| La Salle | 4,535 | 487 | 207 | 694 | 190 | 884 | 643 | 14.19% |
| Lincoln | 14,747 | 935 | 2,859 | 3,793 | 531 | 4,324 | 3,467 | 23.51% |
| Livingston | 26,075 | 1,699 | 2,250 | 3,949 | 1,455 | 5,404 | 3,700 | 14.19% |
| Madison | 3,669 | 454 | 599 | 1,053 | 297 | 1,350 | 977 | 26.64% |
| Morehouse | 10,405 | 959 | 1,143 | 2,102 | 662 | 2,764 | 1,958 | 18.82% |
| Natchitoches | 12,656 | 1,186 | 2,418 | 3,604 | 659 | 4,262 | 3,309 | 26.15% |
| Orleans | 183,039 | 12,223 | 51,130 | 63,352 | 14,288 | 77,641 | 58,446 | 31.93% |
| Ouachita | 54,377 | 4,492 | 8,994 | 13,486 | 3,167 | 16,652 | 12,454 | 22.90% |
| Plaquemines | 8,668 | 966 | 937 | 1,903 | 694 | 2,597 | 1,782 | 20.56% |
| Pointe Coupee | 7,646 | 693 | 952 | 1,645 | 516 | 2,161 | 1,532 | 20.04% |
| Rapides | 47,480 | 3,848 | 7,402 | 11,250 | 2,231 | 13,481 | 10,348 | 21.79% |
| Red River | 3,128 | 413 | 423 | 836 | 227 | 1,063 | 775 | 24.77% |
| Richland | 6,803 | 837 | 884 | 1,720 | 357 | 2,078 | 1,584 | 23.28% |
| Sabine | 7,624 | 601 | 907 | 1,508 | 458 | 1,966 | 1,403 | 18.40% |
| St. Bernard | 24,957 | 2,058 | 3,179 | 5,237 | 1,229 | 6,466 | 4,836 | 19.38% |
| St. Charles | 15,677 | 1,468 | 1,211 | 2,679 | 712 | 3,391 | 2,483 | 15.84% |
| St. Helena | 3,402 | 499 | 365 | 864 | 377 | 1,241 | 815 | 23.97% |
| St. James | 6,543 | 542 | 562 | 1,104 | 629 | 1,733 | 1,057 | 16.15% |
| St. John the Baptist | 13,844 | 1,424 | 1,373 | 2,797 | 862 | 3,658 | 2,603 | 18.80% |
| St. Landry | 27,278 | 2,566 | 4,028 | 6,594 | 1,975 | 8,569 | 6,132 | 22.48% |
| St. Martin | 15,445 | 1,746 | 1,564 | 3,310 | 1,570 | 4,881 | 3,136 | 20.31% |
| St. Mary | 19,317 | 1,372 | 2,601 | 3,973 | 1,854 | 5,827 | 3,761 | 19.47% |
| St. Tammany | 56,882 | 5,149 | 6,455 | 11,604 | 2,037 | 13,641 | 10,647 | 18.72% |
| Tangipahoa | 30,723 | 2,929 | 4,622 | 7,550 | 1,795 | 9,345 | 6,975 | 22.70% |
| Tensas | 2,287 | 323 | 277 | 600 | 152 | 752 | 555 | 24.27% |
| Terrebonne | 33,650 | 3,149 | 4,368 | 7,517 | 2,785 | 10,302 | 7,044 | 20.93% |
| Union | 7,475 | 768 | 621 | 1,389 | 318 | 1,707 | 1,282 | 17.15% |
| Vermilion | 18,383 | 1,758 | 2,260 | 4,018 | 1,393 | 5,411 | 3,755 | 20.43% |
| Vernon | 21,663 | 1,110 | 2,703 | 3,812 | 1,050 | 4,862 | 3,536 | 16.32% |
| Washington | 15,403 | 1,689 | 1,971 | 3,660 | 767 | 4,428 | 3,371 | 21.88% |
| Webster | 15,841 | 1,448 | 1,947 | 3,395 | 628 | 4,022 | 3,118 | 19.68% |
| West Baton Rouge | 6,732 | 450 | 696 | 1,146 | 418 | 1,564 | 1,074 | 15.95% |
| West Carroll | 4,393 | 363 | 489 | 853 | 248 | 1,101 | 792 | 18.04% |
| West Feliciana | 2,877 | 240 | 458 | 697 | 191 | 888 | 647 | 22.48% |
| Winn | 5,936 | 651 | 674 | 1,326 | 293 | 1,619 | 1,222 | 20.59% |
| LOUISIANA | 1,553,377 | 119,998 | 238,167 | 358,165 | 88,338 | 446,502 | 331,182 | 21.32% |

Assumptions: 1995 HUD median family incomes: Non-Metro $24.700, Metro $33,300

Source: LMRG; 1990 U.S. Census; American Housing Survey; U.S. Census C-40 Reports.

- The median monthly owner cost for Louisiana homeowners with mortgage increased by 19.5 percent from $498 in 1980 to $595 in 1990. This was a less aggressive growth than the national average of 26.9 percent during this same period. The median monthly owner cost for Louisiana without mortgages was $153 in 1980 and $168 in 1990. The national level during this same period was $206 in 1980 and $109 in 1990.

$ In 1980, 16.5 percent of Louisiana homeowners had owner costs that equaled thirty percent or more of their household income. By 1990, that percentage had increased to twenty percent or one in five homeowners. At the national, 19.5 percent of homeowners had costs that were thirty percent or more of their household income in 1990, compared with 127.6 percent in 1980.

$ Median monthly gross rent in Louisiana rose by 3.8 percent in real terms from $339 in 1980 to $352 in 1990. This change was much smaller than the national increase of 16.1 percent.

$ In 1990, 45.7 percent of Louisiana renters had monthly costs that were thirty percent or more of their household income, comparted with thirty-nine percent in 1980. At the national level, 41.2 percent of renters fell into this category in 1990 compared with 38.9 percent in 1980.

## HOMELESS FACILITIES

Since 1988, the State has maintained an inventory of facilities to assist homeless persons in Louisiana. This inventory currently contains records on a total of 115 facilities, including emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities, in all ten regions of the State. These 115 facilities have a combined bed capacity of 4,179. Appendix 4 of this report contains an inventory of these facilities indicating the types of homeless persons served by each facility, individual bed capacity, and also locations and phone numbers. The appendix also contains inventory listings of congregate meals programs and/or soup kitchens available to feed homeless persons, a directory of regional Continuum of Care resource collaboratives, and other homeless resource agencies included in the Homeless Resource Database maintained by the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services.

The statewide inventory reflects the following data on the number of homeless facilities and total overnight sleeping capacity for the following localities:

| | # facilities | Capacity |
|---|---|---|
| Abbeville | 1 | 16 |
| Alexandria | 6 | 156 |
| Baton Rouge | 16 | 472 |
| Broussard | 1 | 25 |
| Chalmette | 1 | 26 |
| Crowley | 2 | 62 |
| DeRidder | 1 | 20 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Franklin | 1 | 6 |
| Gonzales | 2 | 18 |
| Hammond | 2 | 19 |
| Harahan | 2 | 30 |
| Harvey | 1 | 28 |
| Houma | 1 | 19 |
| Jefferson (scattered sites) | 1 | 400 |
| Kenner | 1 | 12 |
| Lafayette | 11 | 200 |
| Lake Charles | 7 | 128 |
| Leesville | 1 | 21 |
| Mansfield | 1 | 8 |
| Many | 1 | 16 |
| Marrero | 1 | 36 |
| Minden | 1 | 19 |
| Monroe | 6 | 100 |
| New Iberia | 2 | 46 |
| New Orleans | 20 | 1,422 |
| Opelousas | 2 | 92 |
| Ruston | 1 | 8 |
| Shreveport | 19 | 678 |
| Slidell | 2 | 36 |
| Vinton | 1 | 60 |
| Totals | 115 | 4,179 |

In localities where there are no established shelters, homeless families may receive help with emergency housing or temporary lodging through a variety of arrangements and sources, including privately supported church groups and ministerial alliances, community service groups (veterans and fraternal organizations, etc.) and public and private agencies which participate in federally funded emergency aid programs (e.g. FEMA, CSBG).

In addition to shelter and housing, various types of assistance and programs are available to help homeless people. Homeless persons are eligible for all programs and services which are offered throughout the state to other persons in need. Social Service Programs that assist the homeless include statewide programs for the low income and special needs population such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) [formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children], Food Stamps, Child Welfare assistance, (Vocational) Rehabilitation services, Mental Health services, Developmental Disability services, Elderly services, Veterans services, Medicaid, Charity Hospital programs, adult education, and job assistance.

Other privately supported or specialized supportive service programs targeted specifically for homeless persons are mainly concentrated only in metropolitan areas and/or principally are operated in conjunction with a shelter or housing facility for exclusively serving residents or clientele of the provider facility. An exceptional program in New Orleans is the City of New Orleans Health Department's Health Care for the Homeless. In Shreveport the Centerpoint program provides a single point of entry and centralized client tracking and case management system for the homeless resource agencies in this locality.

Continuum of care resource collaboratives in each region of Louisiana, in preparing applications for the 1999 national Homeless Assistance SuperNOFA competition, performed inventories of all local homeless aid facilities, including emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing beds/units. These resource inventories were a required element for completion of the continuum of care G*aps Analysis Charts* and also included itemization of all local supportive service slots available for the needs of homeless persons. The data from these regional resource inventories was compiled and is contained in Table 9.

Other Homeless Assistance and Homeless Prevention Resources

Other programs providing assistance are those funded by the **McKinney Emergency Food and Shelter Program** administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The FEMA program is a primary funding source for local assistance to prevent individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness from becoming homeless. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Food and Shelter Program allocates funds to local FEMA boards for such emergency uses as food (hot meals, groceries, food vouchers) transportation expenses related to food and/or shelter, emergency lodging for thirty days, emergency one month's rent and limited utility assistance. The allocations issued for Federal Fiscal Year 1999 for fifty-six recipient parishes and the State Selection Committee (set aside funds) totaled $1,830,861.

The Louisiana Department of Education administers McKinney funding under the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program to assure that homeless children are not discriminated against in receiving appropriate educational services. The focus of this program is to ensure school enrollment of all homeless children up to age twenty-one. The program provides grants to local education systems to provide direct services to support programs and activities to address the barriers to educating homeless children and youth. Special services are provided such as: 1-800 number hotline for referral services, educational placement and school enrollment assistance and other services that are needed to help remove barriers to homeless children and youth. Services include educational programs, academic tutoring and cognitive coaching, day care, pre-school programs, psychological testing, clothing, food, medical, dental, eyewear and vision screening, ear screening, counseling, staff development, educational placement, transportation, parent counseling, life skills, job skills, GED instruction, mental health and referral services to other agencies.

## SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Mental Health, will continue to serve as the administrator of the Mental Health Block Grant funding. This grant impacts all regions of the State through the use of flexible funding which includes homeless prevention activities such as rental and utility assistance. It also funds a housing technical assistant who travels into all of the State's planning regions and provides training with mental health regional housing coordinators, private providers and regional housing coalitions regarding the development of supportive housing for those with special needs. As a result of this assistance, regional mental health offices around the

TABLE 9

**STATE OF LOUISIANA COMPOSITE DATA** **Continuum of Care: Gaps Analyses**

**RESOURCE INVENTORIES BY STATE REGION**

## Individuals

| | | CURRENT INVENTORY | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Reg. I+Jeff | Reg. II | Reg. III | Reg. IV | Reg. V | Reg. VI | Reg. VII | Reg. VIII | Reg. IX |
| Beds/ Units | Emergency Shelter | 855 | 139 | 41 | 142 | 131 | 121 | 135 | 83 | 37 |
| | Transitional Housing | 543 | 344 | 67 | 17 | 69 | 141 | 350 | 171 | 20 |
| | Permanent Supportive Housing | 370 | 57 | 90 | 0 | 12 | 50 | 275 | 224 | 32 |
| | Total | 1768 | 540 | 198 | 159 | 212 | 312 | 760 | 478 | 89 |
| Supportive Service Slots | Job Training | 801 | 271 | 160 | 106 | 44 | 50 | 243 | 20 | 126 |
| | Case Management | 890 | 532 | 300 | 12 | 21 | 25 | 162 | 61 | 56 |
| | Substance Abuse Treatment | 533 | 411 | 119 | 36 | 4 | 75 | 206 | 50 | 65 |
| | Mental Health Care | 348 | 378 | 161 | 63 | 13 | 40 | 184 | 50 | 84 |
| | Housing Placement | 610 | 255 | 86 | 76 | 7 | 3 | 404 | 48 | 74 |
| | Life Skills Training | 0 | 499 | 106 | 49 | 38 | 10 | 147 | 70 | 48 |
| Sub-populations | Chronic Substance Abusers | 1047 | 766 | 79 | 6 | 20 | 7 | 262 | 16 | 15 |
| | Seriously Mentally Ill | 356 | 290 | 62 | 15 | 13 | 20 | 205 | 16 | 21 |
| | Dually-Diagnosed | 94 | 346 | 12 | 12 | 7 | 30 | 294 | 12 | 8 |
| | Veterans | 224 | 118 | 2 | 30 | 11 | 20 | 178 | 156 | 18 |
| | Persons with HIV/AIDS | 85 | 237 | 20 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 16 | 3 |
| | Victims of Domestic Violence | 131 | 188 | 22 | 0 | 13 | 35 | 85 | 22 | 4 |
| | Youth | 125 | 61 | 30 | 0 | 71 | 75 | 11 | 14 | 8 |

## Persons in Families with Children

| | | CURRENT INVENTORY | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Reg. I+Jeff | Reg. II | Reg. III | Reg. IV | Reg. V | Reg. VI | Reg. VII | Reg. VIII | Reg IX |
| Beds/ Units | Emergency Shelter | 48 | 137 | 59 | 180 | 59 | 45 | 50 | 40 | 55 |
| | Transitional Housing | 116 | 190 | 10 | 80 | 0 | 92 | 175 | 6 | 0 |
| | Permanent Supportive Housing | 120 | 72 | 16 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 45 | 0 | 8 |
| | Total | 284 | 399 | 85 | 260 | 67 | 142 | 270 | 46 | 63 |
| Supportive Service Slots | Job Training | 186 | 3069 | 30 | 34 | 15 | 50 | 123 | 6 | 68 |
| | Case Management | 369 | 433 | 45 | 94 | 8 | 5 | 60 | 47 | 33 |
| | Child Care | 72 | 2642 | 50 | 43 | 5 | 150 | 32 | 14 | 32 |
| | Substance Abuse Treatment | 97 | 103 | 20 | 48 | 8 | 10 | 74 | 12 | 15 |
| | Mental Health Care | 96 | 0 | 43 | 31 | 5 | 5 | 68 | 72 | 85 |
| | Housing Placement | 253 | 152 | 39 | 83 | 3 | 10 | 148 | 0 | 17 |
| | Life Skills Training | 307 | 3282 | 30 | 15 | 14 | 10 | 54 | 23 | 18 |
| | Other | 0 | 250 | 25 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 135 | 24 | 9 |
| Sub-populations | Chronic Substance Abusers | 97 | 66 | 11 | 26 | 7 | 20 | 75 | 12 | 16 |
| | Seriously Mentally Ill | 96 | 71 | 32 | 41 | 5 | 25 | 70 | 10 | 2 |
| | Dually-Diagnosed | 0 | 43 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 20 | 107 | 4 | 2 |
| | Veterans | 12 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 88 | 0 | 0 |
| | Persons with HIV/AIDS | 18 | 362 | 29 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| | Victims of Domestic Violence | 137 | 80 | 11 | 50 | 39 | 0 | 25 | 24 | 108 |

State have developed, and will continue to implement, housing plans which include both crisis intervention and supportive housing for the mentally ill.

Persons released from mental institutions will continue to receive treatment through their community mental health center. Hospital discharge planners will provide access to emergency or supportive housing upon release from the hospital. Mental health rehabilitation will be provided for those who qualify under the Mental Health Rehabilitation Option. This option includes case management housing supportive services. Treatment coordination is available to a limited number of mental health clients in the State. This program provides supportive services which maintain stability and improve the quality of life for the client.

Private providers of housing and services to mental health clients will continue to seek federal funding under the HUD Section 811 Supportive Housing for the Disabled. This funding includes a capital advance to construct or rehabilitate housing and provides for an authorization of Section 8 funding to subsidize the rents of the disabled populations. As a result of the technical assistance provided through OMH, applications for this funding have increased substantially in recent years for this funding. All of the planning regions have at least one Section 811 program operating or in the developing stages.

New opportunities which address the housing needs of the mentally ill will continue to be addressed during the 2000 - 2004 program years through federal, state and local resources. One such federal program is the Section 8 Mainstream Voucher Program for Persons with Disabilities. Available only since 1998, this program has provided in excess of six hundred additional housing vouchers to persons with disabilities across the State. Under new legislation in 1999, private non-profit providers were eligible applicants. These providers will continue to expand the housing supports through this and other similar programs.

Private non-profits throughout the State continue to develop supportive housing for the elderly through the HUD Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program. As with the Section 811 program, this funding provides a capital advance for the cost of construction or rehabilitation and an authorization of Section 8 for the rental subsidies needed to maintain and operate the facility.

During the 2000 - 2004 program year, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program will continue to serve as the administrator of the non-competitive HOPWA grant funds as well as the Ryan White CARE Act Title II grant. This excludes the New Orleans and Baton Rouge metropolitan areas which will receive their own allocations from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The HIV/AIDS Program has a demonstrated history of providing or ensuring the provisions of medical and supportive services for people with AIDS and is uniquely qualified to serve as the recipient of these funds. The HIV/AIDS Program is also in a position to serve as a funding conduit between HUD and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) which funds the Ryan White CARE Act grant. The opportunity exists to increase program consistency and coordination between the two grants.

Louisiana is unique in regards to its structure of health care services for HIV infected persons. A system of ten regional public hospitals has been in place since the 1930's, offering primary care to indigent and low income residents of the State. These hospitals are able to obtain the services of residents from two renowned teaching hospitals located in New Orleans. With such a high degree of collaboration, these public hospitals are able to offer state of the art technology to their patients, as well as the latest developments in treatments for various illnesses. The structure of this system has also provided a very cohesive network which promotes information sharing and reduces duplication of services.

When the HIV/AIDS Program received the first allocation of Ryan White Title II funds it was in the form of a planning grant. At that time, the HIV Program Office (as the HIV/AIDS Program was named then) developed a comprehensive and formalized plan for the provision of services to HIV infected persons within the State public hospital system. The plan called for the development of ambulatory care clinics in each of the nine regional public medical centers and one ambulatory clinic located at LSU Medical Center in Shreveport. In addition, a consortium was to be created in each of the nine public health regions of the State to plan for and begin to address the psychosocial needs of HIV infected individuals, including services which supported access to medical care. The plan provided specific treatment protocols and standards of care for the clinics which ensured each patient would receive consistent and high quality care, regardless of their geographical location.

The HIV Program Office utilized Ryan White Title II funding and State funding to support administration, oversight and staffing of the Ambulatory care clinics and to foster the creation of Regional Consortia. Nearly eighty million dollars of State funds were appropriated yearly for staffing and the provision of medications and supplies for these clinics. In its administrative capacity, the HIV Program Office had direct influence over the manner in which the funding would utilized and reported upon the activities of each clinic to the Governor's Task Force on AIDS. When issues arose regarding access to care or quality issuer, the Office would investigate and develop a corrective plan.

Over the years the structure changed. In 1995 each of the nine regional public medical centers was given control of resources designated for their Ambulatory Care Clinic. Although the HIV/AIDS Program no longer has direct control over funding for the HIV Ambulatory care clinics, services have been maintained in a majority of cases that meet or exceed PHS standards for quality care. According to LSU HCSD, as of July, 1998, 4,815 HIV infected individuals were receiving care in nine of the regional public medical centers. Of the individuals reported to the Louisiana Surveillance Program with an HIV or AIDS diagnosis, seventy-seven percent were receiving care in the public hospital system at the time of diagnosis. According to the 1998-1999 Louisiana HIV/AIDS Needs Survey Report, eighty-nine percent of the 736 respondents indicated a need for primary medical care, the highest priority of all services listed. Of the individuals identifying primary medical care as a need only two percent indicated that they needed this service but could not get it. In addition, when asked where they accessed primary health care, ninety-five percent indicated that they had received some form of health care through one of the public hospital system facilities. Also of significance is that seventy-six percent of the respondents rated the services as excellent or good, while only seven percent found the services to be bad or really bad.

In regard to improving access to existing and emerging therapies, the Louisiana ADAP is able to document several measures of success. Program enrollment grew from 832 in 4/97 to 2,927 as of the end of September, 1998. The statistics for the end of September, 1998, show that over twenty-two percent of all individuals receiving medication assistance through ADAP are women and children (with the percentage of women served through ADAP about 4 percent higher than the percentage of women living with HIV in the State of Louisiana). Similarly, African Americans and Latinos/as comprise approximately forty-nine percent of the total number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy through Louisiana ADAP, a number that closely resembles the percentage of this same population living with HIV. The HIV/AIDS Program has seen the population at highest risk for contracting HIV disease change over the past two years, and it appears that enrollment in Louisiana ADAP is mirroring these changing demographics. Another outcome which has been achieved is that the number of ADAP participants on a combination therapy regimen that included a protease inhibitor rose dramatically from fifty-eight percent in FY 1997/98 to nearly eighty percent in FY 1998/99.

In regard to the removal of barriers to care so that individuals can enter into and remain in primary medical care, the number of HIV-infected individuals in care in the regional public medical centers increased from 3,765 in July of 1997 to 4,815 in May of 1998. These reports help to substantiate that services provided through the Consortia such as case management, transportation, and child care directly facilitate access to primary medical care. During this grant year the number of individuals receiving Consortia funded services rose from less than 1,800 in 1997 to 2,488 by the end of October, 1998.

It is estimated from the 1998-1999 Louisiana HIV/AIDS Needs Survey that Medicaid pays for the health care costs of approximately thirty-four percent of the HIV infected population in the State of Louisiana. Individuals who receive a disability designation from the Social Security Administration are automatically enrolled in the State's Medicaid Program. Coverage includes most physician visits and a substantial portion of the required HIV-related medications. Other low-income HIV infected individuals may be eligible for the Medically Needy Program, which requires an individual to spend down a portion of their income each month in medical expenses in order to remain eligible for Medicaid benefits. In the State of Louisiana, Medicaid expenses for HIV infected individuals for inpatient and outpatient services, physician visits, and pharmacy costs rose from $2,681,178 in 1993 to approximately $13,000,000 in 1998. The State's contribution to this program has ranged from sixteen percent to twenty-seven percent.

The State does not have a Medicaid Managed Care program at this time. Other services for HIV infected individuals which are funded by Medicaid include limited transportation and case management. A new case management system was implemented in the State of Louisiana in 1998 and providers were selected by the end of the year. Efforts are underway to coordinate the provision of case management between Medicaid funded providers and Ryan White funded providers. Once Medicaid providers have been trained in HIV related issues and resources the State will begin transferring Medicaid eligible clients to these alternate service providers.

In regard to securing other funding streams for ADAP, the HIV/AIDS Program has been successful in working with the LSU HCSD to develop the State Immune Therapy Program (SITP) which is supported with State funds. This resource provides funding to the ten regional medical centers for the purchase of medications that are not covered by the ADAP formulary or that are provided to clients of these medical centers who do not qualify for ADAP, including the incarcerated population. In addition, this resource is utilized to provide medications on the ADAP formulary for ADAP eligible clients at the point in the year when Ryan White Title II funds have been exhausted. State resources for this program have risen from $3 million in FY 96/97 to over $4.8 million in FY 97/98.

The HIV/AIDS Program continues to work with other State Departments to insure that services are provided to HIV infected individuals. As indicated by Maintenance of Effort Worksheets, the State continues to provide over $12 million a year in funding to support comprehensive medical and psychosocial services such as alcohol and substance abuse treatment, case management, early intervention, primary care, and prevention interventions.

## BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

No excessive exclusionary, discriminatory or duplicatory policies, rules and regulations constituting barriers to affordable housing were identified during the development of the Consolidated Plan. Land use, zoning, and code enforcement continue to be local issues over which the State exercises no control but the State is not aware of any local policies that have emerged as significantly and negatively affecting affordable housing.

## FAIR HOUSING

The Office of Community Development contracted with Ardinger Consultants and Associates to prepare a statewide analysis of impediments to fair housing. The analysis was completed by Ardinger in December of 1996. The areas included for review in the process were: public, assisted, and other affordable housing; sales and rental practices; mortgage lending practices; homeowner's insurance; zoning and land use policies; hate/bias crimes; choices for persons with disabilities; discrimination against families with children, fair housing enforcement; and community education, outreach and fair housing activities. In addition to the analysis itself, Ardinger developed and made available a training and self-instructional manual on affirmatively furthering fair housing for use by all local governments included in the analysis process.

The Office of Community Development randomly selected three hundred non-entitlement cities, towns, and parishes to be included in the analysis process. The identified communities were scattered throughout the State and ranged in population and size of government. An A800@ number was established so that at any time during the analysis process the local entities could contact the Office of Community Development for technical assistance and/or any questions resulting from the analysis. A survey form was developed and mailed to each of the entities. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the degree of knowledge of fair housing and the extent of fair housing activities on the local government level. A second survey form was developed and mailed to over 200 organizations and agencies, e.g., local public housing authorities, shelter providers, independent living centers, The Urban League, NOW, etc., requesting information on fair housing as to how it impacted these organizations and the citizens served by each. Nineteen housing authorities or housing program agencies, nine other agencies and organizations, and ninety-four entities completed and returned the survey forms. Sixteen entities were selected for on-site visits by dividing the State into four geographic regions. Two parishes and two towns were selected from each region based on size, diversity of population, history of activity in the area of fair housing, and location. Representatives of private organizations such as the

National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials of Louisiana, the HUD Area Office in New Orleans, etc. were interviewed on-site and over the telephone. Other organizations were encouraged to use the A800@ number to provide additional information. In addition to the above, the following information was reviewed: a) complaint and compliance activity statistics from HUD's Louisiana and Fort Worth, Texas Offices of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; b) Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data; c) court cases related to fair housing; d) zoning and building codes for entities selected for on-site visits; and e) studies, books, articles, demographic data, and newspaper reports related to fair housing issues. All of the information gathered through these sources was considered in developing the analysis. Because of the extensive data and discussion in the Consolidated Plan regarding homelessness and lead based paint, those issues were not addressed in the analysis.

Through this analysis process and in accordance with the definition of impediments under the Fair Housing Law, only two major impediments to fair housing were identified. The first being the lack of knowledge of the fair housing law by local entities and individuals, and the second being the lack of affordable housing statewide.

To begin actions to help eliminate the identified impediments, the Office of Community Development began working with local governments statewide in an effort to bring about a general knowledge of the fair housing law and how it impacts each citizen on a personal level. The Office of Community Development requires larger communities to complete an impediments analysis and action plan. All communities are required to implement programs or activities that will further fair housing. Additionally, the Office of Community Development has continued working with the Attorney General's Office, Division of Public Protection, in an effort to further the ideals and concepts of fair housing.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing priorities have been established to address the needs of Louisiana as follows:

**Priority #1. Increase homeownership opportunities for first time low, moderate and middle income homebuyers.**

(A) Analysis

Notwithstanding declines in mortgage interest rates and home prices, sluggish income growth and the lack of savings for down payment requirements have continued to keep the percentage of owner-occupied units lower than is desired in Louisiana. Though the Louisiana economy has improved, the income earning and savings opportunities for many households remain limited. The desire for homeownership remains strong in Louisiana as evidenced by the success of LHFA=s Mortgage Revenue Bond Program for first time homebuyers and excessive demand for HOME downpayment and closing cost assistance. Total demand from first time homebuyers will grow through the next five years based on the continued growth of the 25-54 age groups. Their income distribution, however, means that public loan programs offering downpayment and closing cost assistance for lower income buyers will be necessary. The purchase of existing homes will most often satisfy the needs of this segment of affordable demand, though a lack of suitable housing stock is still prevalent in rural areas.

Legg Mason projects that up to seventy percent of movement within the State=s entire income spectrum will derive from households moving into income ranges higher than $50,000 per year. Most of those households will be urban and middle-aged, potentially reinforcing demand for move-up homeownership housing. Nonetheless, the bulk of households in the State will remain essentially where they are today. Lack of income growth for working households will place new construction homes further out of reach as an alternative for their housing needs.

(B) Strategy Development - Investment Plan (Activities & Programs)

The primary activities the State will undertake are:

- The provision of downpayment and closing cost assistance; and
- The provision of low interest mortgage loans.

The secondary activities the State will undertake are:

- the encouragement of creative financing opportunities by private lenders in promoting homeownership.

The State will utilize the following programs in connection with this housing priority:

- HOME Program
- Mortgage Revenue Bond Program

The choice of activities and programs to be utilized in connection with this housing priority has been influenced by the market conditions which evidence a strong desire and preference for ownership of single family homes across income lines and within all racial/ethnic groups. It is expected funding made available through the HOME Program and/or Mortgage Revenue Bond Program will enable at least 7,500 extremely low income, low income and moderate income families to achieve the American Dream of homeownership over the next five years.

The State has established an annual goal of enabling one thousand five hundred first time, low, moderate and middle income persons and families to purchase a house through the single family MRB, HOME and CHDO Homeownership programs provided by the State.

**Priority #2. Increase the supply of decent, safe and sanitary rental housing that is affordable for low, very low and moderate income families.**

(A) Analysis

Renter households typically have lower incomes than homeowner households and are much more likely to be spending a high proportion of their limited incomes on housing expenses. According to Legg Mason, in 1995, renter households constituted only 34.1 percent of all households; over two thirds of their number are earning less than median income and considered housing cost burdened.

Independent market analyses and interviews with multi-family rental management firms indicate that vacancy rates are very low throughout the State. High debt service and operating expenses on multi-family projects have resulted in reductions in the number of habitable units due to owners' inability to afford the required rehabilitation. Rent increases have been impossible to achieve, especially in rural areas, over the past few years due to the limited ability of tenants to afford more on their limited incomes, though some rent increases have been sustained in metropolitan areas. The current low market rents and their limited growth potential make unsubsidized rental housing construction almost impossible for the foreseeable future.

A shortage of affordable decent, safe and sanitary units available for rent in rural areas is a major concern. The development of multifamily housing has not kept pace with demand in Louisiana. In fact, the number of low-cost units produced under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program has actually dropped because the program has not received an inflation adjustment since 1986.

(B) Strategy Development - Investment Plan (Activities & Programs)

The primary activities the State will undertake are:

- Development of additional affordable rental housing units for occupancy by very low income, low income and moderate income families.
- Acquisition, rehabilitation, refinance and/or reconstruction of rental housing units.

The secondary activities the State will undertake are:

- Encouragement of creative financing opportunities by private lenders in the development or maintenance of affordable rental housing.

The State will utilize the following programs in connection with this housing priority.

- The HOME Program
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- Mortgage Revenue Bond Program
- Taxable Bond Program
- Risk Sharing Program
- Mark-to-Market Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program

The choice of activities and programs to be utilized in connection with this housing priority has been influenced by the market conditions which evidence the shortage of or substandard condition of affordable rental housing.

It is anticipated that HOME funds will result in the creation or rehabilitation of over three hundred affordable units for occupancy by low or very low income families annually. The goal established for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program is that one thousand rental units will be constructed or rehabilitated each year.

**Priority #3. Rehabilitate substandard housing owned and occupied by low and very low income families.**

(A) Analysis

The housing supply of low and moderate income households in the State of Louisiana is significantly impacted by substandard conditions which require rehabilitation to make them structurally sound, safe and habitable. As incomes grow, the level of housing distress declines. Low and very low income families experience the highest level of housing distress from substandard conditions and overcrowding due to a lack of available funds for necessary upkeep and repair of owner-occupied units.

(B) Strategy Development - Investment Plan (Activities & Programs)

The primary activities the State will undertake will be targeted for low and very low income households and are:

- Rehabilitation of substandard housing owned and occupied by low and very low income families.
- Reconstruction and one-for-one replacement of substandard units which are not suitable for rehabilitation.

The secondary activities the State will undertake are:

- Encouragement of creative financing by private lenders for rehabilitation or replacement housing.

The State will utilize the following programs in connection with this housing priority:

- The HOME Program
- CDBG Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program

The choice of activities and programs to be used in connection with this priority has been influenced by those market conditions which evidence the nature and condition of existing housing stock owned and occupied by low and very low income families.

The State has established an annual goal to rehabilitate at least two hundred homes owned and occupied by families with incomes at or below sixty percent of the area median through the SHARE Grant Program.

**Priority #4. Increase the supply of housing with supportive services for special needs populations (i.e. elderly, physically handicapped, mentally ill, homeless, single parent families).**

(A) Analysis

The overall aging of the population and demand for structurally modified housing to allow the elderly to function safely within their homes will increase. As these seniors grow more infirm, independent living will become more difficult and alternative arrangements combining healthcare with housing will gain popularity. Senior households earning less than $15,000 annually constitute one-third of the lowest income segment of the population.

While a great need exists for elderly housing, the housing crisis among low income physically or mentally disabled individuals is far greater. While public policy currently promotes people with disabilities living in regular housing in the community rather than in costly institutions or congregate facilities, changes to federal housing policies are reducing, rather than increasing, the supply of affordable housing available to people with disabilities under age sixty-two. Because of Aelderly only@

housing legislation passed in the 1990s, owners of federally subsidized housing can now restrict or exclude access by people with disabilities. Prior to 1992, these owners were required to make these units available on an equal basis to both elderly households and people with disabilities under the age of sixty-two.

With the highest percentage of children in poverty in the nation, Louisiana is experiencing a child poverty crisis which has grave implications for the future. In addition, half of all female headed households (without a spouse) are in poverty and 31.3 percent of Louisiana's children are in single-parent families.

Homeless families with children clearly face the most pronounced housing problem in the State. The problem is further exacerbated by the need to have a range of support service options to enable homeless families with children to seek and obtain employment.

(B) Strategy Development - Investment Plan (Activities & Programs)

- Development of program-wide selection criteria that promote the development of projects that set aside units for occupancy by special needs populations.
- Development of program-wide selection criteria that promote the provision of supportive services in connection with housing development.
- Development of cross-program funding by coordinating the efforts of state, federal and private and non-profit agencies that provide housing and/or supportive services to special needs populations.
- The Department of Social Services and the Department of Health and Hospitals will continue to utilize their network of parish offices to disseminate information regarding supportive service program activities.

The secondary activities the State will undertake are:

- Promotion of applications for competitively funded housing and support service programs.

The State will utilize the following programs in connection with this housing priority:

- The HOME Program
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- Mortgage Revenue Bond Program
- Supportive Housing for the Elderly (Section 202) Program
- Supportive Housing for the Disabled (Section 811) Program
- HOPWA Program
- Continuum of Care Programs

The choice of activities and programs to be utilized in connection with this priority has been influenced by those market conditions which evidence the increased need by special needs populations for suitable housing and supportive services.

**Priority #5. Build the capacity of communities to address their housing needs through the creation of partnerships between local governmental units, nonprofit organizations, private lending institutions, for profit developers, and State and Federal governmental units.**

(A) Analysis

In a survey of the 265 municipalities (metropolitan and non-metropolitan) within Louisiana, it was found that seventy-four percent were governed by part-time mayors and that 100 percent of those municipalities had no housing department or staff. In municipalities with full-time mayors, less than twenty-five percent had housing departments or staff. The absence of housing departments in ninety-three percent of Louisiana's municipalities clearly demonstrates the need to build the capacity of those communities to enable them to plan, implement and manage successful affordable housing initiatives. Most of the State's non-metropolitan communities also have no experienced nonprofit housing development organizations. LHFA's extensive community awareness efforts throughout the past several years have generated considerable interest, yet most local officials, non-profit entities and community leaders remain unable to access the necessary resources to address housing problems at the local level. Developing housing capacity at the local level remains a major priority.

The limited resources available directly to the State or its agencies necessitate leveraging of funds and require the involvement of the private sector. The expertise and financial resources available from private lending sources and for-profit developers must be accessed in order to meet public purpose housing goals of local communities and non-profit organizations.

(B) Strategy Development - Investment Plan (Activities and Programs)

The primary activities the State will undertake are:

- Provision of technical assistance to local governmental units, non-profit entities, financial institutions, and private developers through workshops, seminars and printed material.
- Provision of technical assistance to non-profit entities in becoming certified as Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs).
- Provision of operating expenses for a limited period of time to aid in developing the capacity of newly certified CHDOs to own, sponsor or develop housing.
- The Office of Community Development will continue to provide technical assistance to small cities and municipalities participating in the CDBG program to assure compliance with federal and state laws.

- Development of program-wide selection criteria that provides incentives for initiatives undertaken in areas defined by local governmental units as undergoing redevelopment pursuant to comprehensive neighborhood redevelopment plans.

The secondary activities the State will undertake are:

- Development of program-wide selection criteria that promote partnerships between non-profits, local governmental units and private sector entities.

The choice of the activities and programs to be utilized in addressing this priority has been influenced by the overwhelming need for coordination of effort between various entities in order to navigate the complexities required for the development of affordable housing.

Chart 1 identifies the resources available to assist in meeting the housing needs identified in this Consolidated Plan. Table 10 identifies the State's priority housing needs, including the priority homeless needs.

Geographic Distribution

A complete description of goals, allocation methods and geographic distributions is on pages 186-199. All construction, renovation and rehabilitation activities for rental housing through the use of HOME funds will be geographically dispersed throughout the non-entitlement areas with special focus given to rural areas on a competitive basis.

Activities to increase first-time homeownership opportunities will be promoted statewide in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. New construction of single family homes through the CHDO homeownership program will be limited to rural (non-entitlement) areas only.

The SHARE Grant program for rehabilitation of low income owner occupied properties will be made available to local governmental units serving non-entitlement areas throughout the State on a competitive basis.

Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

Among the obstacles to meeting underserved needs include the need for additional resources such as a dedicated trust fund to address the rental and homeownership housing needs of low and very low-income households.

**HOMELESSNESS**

The State of Louisiana's homeless assistance strategy mirrors that set forth in *Priority Home*, the Federal Plan To Address Homelessness, published in 1994. As previously discussed, the federal strategy is built around the "Continuum of Care" concept, an approach that helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. This approach envisions comprehensive strategic

planning at the local community level to inventory existing resources and to identify gaps or deficiencies for development of the continuum of care for homeless persons in the local area. Activities targeted to eliminate such gaps are the primary objectives to which available resources to address homelessness and housing needs are directed. More importantly, this approach recognizes that the homeless needs in each community, as well as current resources and systems to meet those needs, are "as different and distinct as the people who live in these communities." While acting as a framework to bring homeless housing and services and their respective providers together, the Continuum of Care approach emphasizes that only the community — not the federal or state government— can design a strategy that works best, thus empowering the local community to make decisions on the appropriate allocation of available resources to strengthen and enhance its local Continuum of Care. Through encompassing and reinforcing all local strategic plans which are designed to enhance and strengthen local "Continuum of Care" resource systems, the State's strategy aims to address the following needs and objectives:

(1) Helping low-income families avoid becoming homeless;
(2) Reaching out to homeless persons and assessing their individual needs;
(3) Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons; and
(4) Helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

In the previous five year Consolidated Plan, the priorities for addressing homeless needs were discussed as follows:

> "From available information, it is concluded that there is a definite need in the State for program assistance under all housing and supportive service options available under HUD homeless assistance funding, i.e. emergency shelter, supportive and transitional housing, permanent housing for the handicapped homeless, supplemental assistance for facilities to assist the homeless, and single room occupancy housing. Priorities for development of transitional, permanent and single room occupancy housing, and supplemental programs to assist homeless persons are preeminent for the major urban regions in the State which has the greatest concentration of homeless persons. However non-urban areas are also deficient in these resources, and will benefit from programs which serve parish and/or multi-parish areas and involve strong supportive service components and elements of broad based community participation in developing a continuum of care system."
>
> "Unaccompanied men comprise the largest component of the homeless population, especially among the unsheltered homeless. In survey responses, these single men express their need for decent low cost SRO housing renting at daily or weekly rates. For the indigent homeless, it is very difficult to accumulate the cash necessary to pay deposits, acquire furnishings, etc. to acquire an apartment. Also frequently expressed is their need for jobs which provide decent compensation, longer term employment (not casual day labor), work that is accessible by public transportation, and is non-exploitive in nature."
>
> "A strategy to match the needs of the homeless population with available facilities and services, and to recognize the special needs of the various types of homeless individuals, must take into account the primary role of community-based charitable organizations and voluntary

programs, alone or in partnership with local governments and public agencies, in establishing and supporting basic facilities and services for the homeless. Central to the strategy are the following elements:"

1) the gathering of information on homelessness in the state and assessing the needs of homeless persons

2) dissemination and sharing of this information to community based groups and agencies concerned or involved in serving the homeless

3) the evaluation of the needs of the homeless individual

4) making appropriate referrals to available community resources

5) the provision and coordination of all necessary services so that the homeless individual achieves maximum benefit from available facilities and services

6) Encouraging the development of all necessary and appropriate services, service networks, and public and private resources (including real property, in-kind contributions, etc.) to support activities to assist homeless persons within Louisiana"

" HUD homeless assistance funding will be used to complement and enhance available facilities and services through providing a source of funding support for the maintenance of existing facilities and services, and to allow facility expansion and/or the establishment of new facilities and services to help eliminate or lessen the gaps of unmet needs within local service delivery and homeless housing systems."

" A priority need is to maintain the availability of free emergency shelter beds for single individuals and families and to increase longer term transitional housing resources which are linked to emergency shelter facilities or which allow admissions on an emergency basis."

"In recent distribution of ESG shelter amounts, projects proposing to serve families with children were awarded preference points. Preference was also given to projects with supportive service components or case management services, and those permitting longer term shelter stays. All housing assistance programs within the purview of the Consolidated Plan should give priority in the provision of housing assistance and supportive services to indigent homeless persons, and especially homeless family groups with children" (in view of the special vulnerability of young children to profound physical and emotional developmental problems caused by the adverse conditions of homelessness).

"There is a priority need for emergency and transitional housing for all special needs subgroups within the homeless population. It is important to make available adequate and appropriate housing and supportive services for the ... mentally and physically disabled, recovering substance abusers, and persons with AIDS. McKinney assistance, in combination with other sources, could provide the means for shelters to extend the period of stay permitted or to establish transitional housing capability to meet longer term shelter needs."

Priorities For Homeless Needs Assistance

Priorities for use of available resources to address homeless needs for the period of the State's FY 2000 - FY 2004 Consolidated Plan are as follows:

**Priority:** **To give preference in awarding homeless assistance funds and inendorsing grant proposals to those proposed activities and projects which are designed within the context of a regional or community based "Continuum of Care" collaborative process and which are integral to a local "Continuum of Care" resource system.**

Because homeless persons often have multiple and diverse needs and because they require numerous and varied types of support services within the framework of a structured system of supportive services and residential programs in order for them to achieve independent living, it is of paramount importance that these programs and resources be strategically and collaboratively linked and coordinated to effectively bring about the appropriate outcomes. Support services available for homeless persons may be limited in scope, accessibility, and/or capability of programs to accommodate special needs. There are still significant gaps within all regions of the State in the development of housing facilities and permanent supportive housing programs for the needs of homeless persons . It is therefore a prime homeless assistance priority that available homeless assistance funds from HUD and other sources be strategically targeted, within programming parameters, to strengthen and enhance the development of local continuum of care collaborate systems throughout the state.

**Priority:** **Continued use of regional allocation formula in competitive award of State ESGP funding amounts**.

During the initial years of the State ESG Program, preference was given to assisting the establishment of new shelter facilities and providing continuation funding to those shelter projects which received start-up aid through use of State ESG grant amounts. Effective FFY 92, DSS/OCS began implementation of a geographic allocation formula in the distribution of ESG funding to ensure that each region of the State was allotted a specified minimum of State ESG grant assistance for eligible ESGP projects. This method of regional allocation amounts is similar to the *pro rata need amounts* formulated by HUD for its Homeless Assistance SuperNOFA funding. Through the specification of a dollar figure of anticipated ESGP funding allotted for each region, the local homeless resource agencies are able to collaboratively plan for and design appropriate ESGP eligible activities for strategic integration and implementation within its local continuum of care system.

**Priority:** **To increase the availability of longer term shelter and transitional housing projects that incorporate treatment components and special supportive services for homeless persons with addictive disorders and/or mental illness, and/or projects incorporating life skills training and independent living components designed for the special needs of homeless families with children.**

Data from regional continuum of care collaboratives, homeless shelters and transitional housing providers, as well as national studies has documented the high prevalence of addictive disorders, mental illness, dually diagnosed individuals with co-occurring disorders, and other special needs conditions among the homeless population. Because of the special vulnerability of children to the adverse conditions of homelessness, a continuing priority is given to the development of additional residential beds and supportive service slots for homeless families with children.

As previously discussed, a state strategy for helping low income persons to avoid becoming homeless is predicated on the homeless prevention objectives and community based collaborative resources within each region's continuum of care system.. Since homelessness is a social problem connected to poverty, the State's policies for the reduction of the number of families below the poverty level, described elsewhere in this Plan, are relevant and integral to its strategy in helping families and individuals to avoid becoming homeless as well as in enhancing self sufficiency, self-support and independent living outcomes for homeless persons being served within the regional continuum of care systems which include state provided supportive services and public aid programs.

The following populations are deemed to be at high risk of becoming homeless:

The very low income population, including recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

Low Income individuals involved in substance abuse

Recently released ex-prisoners

Deinstitutionalized mentally disabled persons

Victims of family violence

## Institutional Obstacles to the Establishment of Additional Homeless Assistance Programs

Louisiana is a poor state and its private resource agencies are mainly concentrated in urban areas. In many small cities and rural areas, there is a lack of non profit organizations and other concerned groups possessing the expertise and resources to develop and maintain new programs to address unmet housing and supportive services needs. Local systems and networks for coordinated services, and more intensive data collection and dissemination of information related to homeless issues, are also necessary elements to inspire and promote community organizational activities to develop local continuum of care systems.

## Geographic Distribution

As evidenced from the State's Homeless Needs Assessment Surveys beginning in 1991, homelessness is and continues to be a problem in all regions of the State. Homeless resource providers in local communities have increased in number and capacity in response to these needs, particularly in development of transitional housing programs. Louisiana has witnessed significant progress in organizational and networking activities within the State's regions and local communities to improve coordination and effective use of available resources to assist the homeless. Facilities and services to assist the homeless in Louisiana have been increased and strengthened within local communities through the efforts of concerned citizens, the faith community, private and public resource agencies, local interest groups and organizations, coalitions, local governments, and other public and private sector entities. In many instances, the development of new projects and services has been facilitated and supported by federal aid programs, some of which are administered through state agencies and local governments. Facilities and services for the homeless have increased; however, most providers report that their programs have experienced an increase in the number of requests for services and relief assistance. The most commonly cited reason for these increases has been a serious lack of affordable housing for low income individuals and families. Many private agencies also believe that the impact of recent welfare reform measures is already being felt as a contributing factor in increased numbers of requests for emergency aid and relief services.

In its planning for use of available homeless assistance funds in localities throughout Louisiana, the general priorities are determined through each region's Continuum of Care strategic planning process and analyses of unmet needs (gaps) in its homeless assistance resource system. Since recent studies support the correlation between the extent of homelessness and conditions of poverty, the State's geographic allocation formula for the Emergency Shelter Grants Program is based on prevalence data for persons and households below the poverty line in each state region. These factors are:

| Geographic Region | | Allocation Factor |
|---|---|---|
| Region I | New Orleans | .1572303 |
| Region II | Baton Rouge | .1120504 |
| Region III | Thibodaux | .0698830 |
| Region IV | Lafayette | .1522065 |
| Region V | Lake Charles | .0531706 |
| Region VI | Alexandria | .0764176 |
| Region VII | Shreveport | .1248105 |
| Region VIII | Monroe | .0985996 |
| Region IX | Northshore | .0746534 |
| Region X | Jefferson | .0809781 |

## Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

The most common and traditional type of homeless aid provider in Louisiana is a private nonprofit agency, often affiliated with a faith based organization. Louisiana is a poor state and has relatively fewer private charitable foundations and trusts with substantial resources dedicated for use in meeting the underserved needs of Louisiana communities. The State's private resource agencies are mainly concentrated in urban areas. In many small cities and rural areas, there is a lack of non profit organizations and other concerned groups possessing the expertise and resources to develop and maintain new programs to address underserved housing and supportive services needs. Local systems and networks for coordinated services and more intensive data collection and dissemination of information related to homeless issues are also necessary elements to inspire and promote community organizational activities to develop local continuum of care systems.

An encouraging development has been the establishment and growth of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO), begun as an initiative of the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL) in 1997. LANO's mission is to strengthen and promote Louisiana's nonprofit sector through education, advocacy and member services. LANO envisions a network of excellent nonprofit organizations enhancing the quality of life in Louisiana. LANO offers technical training to empower and assist local nonprofits in capacity building activities and to strengthen collaborations and community-based initiatives.

## State Strategy to Help Homeless Persons Make the Transition to Permanent Housing and Independent Living

The aforementioned HUD report of December, 1999, *The Forgotten Americans - Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve*, found that when homeless people get housing assistance and needed services - such as health care, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, education and job training – seventy-six percent of those living in families and sixty percent of those living alone end their homeless status and move to an improved living situation after completion of the assistance program.

The *Continuum of Care* initiative, the centerpiece of the federal policy on homelessness as well as of the State of Louisiana's strategy to address homelessness, emphasizes ultimate outcomes of independent living and permanent housing for homeless persons assisted through a comprehensive and collaborative community resource system -- the Continuum of Care. This Continuum of Care homeless assistance system is developed as the result of strategic planning by communities which reflects efforts to address the complexities of homelessness through a range of housing options and supportive services. Integral components of the Continuum of Care provide emergency assistance and assessment of a homeless person's needs and help the person to obtain permanent housing and become self-sufficient. State agencies which provide supportive services, such as mental health services and substance abuse treatment, working in collaboration with other resource agencies (public and private), have made important contributions to the planning and development of local continuum of care resource systems.

It is very important that supportive services necessary for progress through the local continuum of care system continue to be provided or available throughout the final stage when a homeless person or family is making the transition to permanent housing and independent living and for a further period so that appropriate interventions and aid can be promptly provided in the possible event a crisis or severe problem should threaten a relapse into homelessness. Many of the transitional housing programs in the State require that clients escrow a portion of their income and/or earnings to accumulate in a "nestegg account" to provide a financial cushion to cope with anticipated and unanticipated expenses when they move to permanent housing and independent living. For certain homeless persons lacking appropriate skills in independent living, for reasons such as developmental disability, youth or deprived circumstances, training in basic life skills (e.g. personal budgeting, bill paying, responsible home management, appropriate hygiene, nutrition, scheduling and keeping appointments, etc.) is often a necessary pre-requisite to successfully completing the transition to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

## OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

The priority housing and supportive service needs of persons who are not homeless but who require supportive housing include:

- Non-profit sponsored applications for the Section 811 and 202 programs;
- Non-profit sponsored applications for the Section 8 Mainstream Voucher Program;
- Public housing agency applications for Section 8 Mainstream Voucher Programs; Continued technical assistance in all planning regions regarding housing and service delivery to the special needs population;
- Continued collaboration among staff, providers and communities to increase efficiency and decrease duplication of effort.

No combination of social services, case management, healthcare, or advocacy will be effective in meeting the special needs of the non-homeless (elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities [mental, physical, development], persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with AIDS and their families, and public housing residents) in the absence of the availability of affordable housing.

The primary source of housing, support services, and health care for low-income people in the United States is the federal government. According to *Rural AIDS Housing*, to ensure the viability of subsidized housing, housing authorities and other providers are looking at a range of strategies for increasing revenue, including raising tenants' rents. In most communities, however, incomes of subsidized housing residents are increasing minimally, at best. And although the U. S. economy is as strong as it has ever been, very few resources from the private sector are being directed toward the creation of housing affordable to the working poor, special needs populations, and households with extremely low incomes.

### Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

In every region of the State there is a deficiency of supportive housing units for the special needs population. Waiting lists are extensive for most of the HUD Section 811 Supportive Housing for the Disabled projects and the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly.

Supportive services to the populations are deficient as well. Case management services reimbursed through Medicaid are available only through waivers available to citizens who are developmentally disabled.

## NONHOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### Goals and Objectives

In accordance with the statutory goals, the primary objective of the LCDBG Program is to provide grants to units of general local government in non-entitlement areas for the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Each activity funded must meet one of the following two national objectives: (a) principal benefit to low/moderate income persons - the State defines principal benefit as being at least sixty percent rather than the federal definition of fifty-one percent and (b) elimination or prevention of slums and blight. To accomplish these national objectives, the State has established the following goals: (a) strengthen community economic development through the creation of jobs, stimulation of private investment, and community revitalization, principally for low and moderate income persons, (b) benefit low and moderate income persons, (c) eliminate or aid in the prevention of slums or blight, or (d) provide for other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

These goals and objectives serve as both the State's long-term and short-term goals and objectives and also serve as the goals and objectives for the non-housing community development needs of the State.

It is difficult for the State to project numerical goals for the total number of persons who will benefit from non-housing community development needs, number and percent of low and moderate income persons who will benefit from non-housing community development needs, number of persons who will benefit from the creation/retention of jobs, et cetera. The State has limited control over these numbers because the actual numbers depend on funded projects established at the local level. Based on historical data, these numbers fluctuate from year to year. For example, 94,212 persons (80.43 percent low/moderate income) benefitted from public facilities projects under the FY 1995 program year, 84,828 persons (82.24 percent low/moderate income) benefitted from public facilities projects under the FY 1996 program year, 95,091 persons (79.91 percent low/moderate income) benefitted from public facilities projects under the FY 1997 program, and 59,496 persons (80.97 percent low/moderate income) benefitted from public facilities projects under the FY 1998 program. Using the same program years, there were 222 jobs created/retained (77.48 percent low/moderate income) under the FY 1995 program year, 241 jobs created/retained (66.80 percent low/moderate income) under the FY 1996 program year, 361 jobs created/retained (67.04 percent low/moderate income) under the FY 1997 program year, and 239 jobs created/retained (66.53 percent low/moderate income) under the FY 1998 program year. (The first three program years cited were based on a twelve month program year and the last program year cited was based on a ten month program year.) While the numbers varied among the four program years, it is evident that the State addressed the established goals and objectives. In all instances cited, the State exceeded its goal of sixty percent low and moderate income and the federal goal of fifty-one percent low and moderate income.

## Establishment of Priorities and Activities

In February of 1999, the Office of Community Development mailed a survey form to all potential applicants for LCDBG funds throughout the State; this involved three hundred and forty local governing bodies. The primary purpose of that survey was to gather information regarding the communities' and parishes' priorities and perceived needs as related to the LCDBG Program. Responses were received from one hundred and seventy-six local governing bodies.

One of the questions on the survey form pertained to the prioritization of the five basic eligible activities under the LCDBG Program: public facilities, housing rehabilitation, economic development, social services, and planning studies. The local governing body was asked to place number 1 by its highest priority, number 2 by its second priority, and number 3 by its third priority; no numbers were to be assigned to its fourth and fifth priorities. The results of their responses are shown in Table 11. The rankings were based upon assigning votes for top priority - 3 points, second priority - 2 points, and third priority - 1 point.

As is shown, public facilities ranked overwhelmingly first, economic development second, and housing rehabilitation third. The public facilities needs and economic development needs will be discussed more in depth herein; the housing needs on a statewide basis have been previously discussed.

## Statewide Public Facilities Needs

Another question on the survey asked each local governing body to identify the priorities of its jurisdiction in the area of public facilities. The results are identified in Table 12. Of the responses received, streets ranked first with a weighted score of 193 and sewer collection improvements ranked second with a weighted score of 192. Drainage improvements, potable water improvements, wastewater (sewer) treatment improvements, and water for fire protection ranked third, fourth, fifth and sixth.

To further support the need for funds for sewerage system improvements, Table 13 is provided. That table presents a comparison between communities within Louisiana and the United States in terms of the percentage of all occupied housing units which are connected to a public sewer system. The data used in Table 13 was taken from 1980 Census data as no comparable data was available from the 1990 Census. As illustrated in that table, in communities with a population of 1,000 to 10,000 persons, Louisiana has a greater percentage of housing units which are not served by a public sewer system than do communities of the same size in the nation as a whole. This information was not available for communities with a population of less than 1,000 persons.

Table 14 presents a comparison of occupied housing units which lack some or all plumbing in Louisiana and the United States. As shown in that table, the percent of Louisiana's owner occupied and renter occupied housing units lacking some plumbing is also greater than the national average and the percent of the State's renter occupied housing lacking complete plumbing is greater than the national average.

## Statewide Economic Development Needs

Louisiana’s economy grew 22.2 percent in real terms between 1992 and 1996 producing 1.58 percent of the nation’s output as measured by Gross State Product. The nation’s economy by comparison grew at a slower pace during this same period, only 12.9 percent; however, Louisiana has still not recovered its 1987 percentage of national output of 1.61 percent. Louisiana’s per capita income in 1992 was 78.6 percent of the national, ranking 46 out of the 50 states. Four years later the State’s per capita income increased to 80.8 percent of the national average and moved up to 43rd place. Using *Earnings By Major Industry* as a proxy for economic output since 1996 the State’s economy has grown at a slower pace through the second quarter of 1998 than the national economy

TABLE 11

RANKING OF PROGRAM CATEGORIES
February, 1999

| ACTIVITY | PRIORITY* | | | WEIGHTED SCORE | RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Public Facilities | 166 | 6 | 0 | 510 | 1 |
| Economic Development | 7 | 95 | 41 | 252 | 2 |
| Housing Rehabilitation | 1 | 43 | 63 | 152 | 3 |
| Planning | 1 | 10 | 37 | 60 | 4 |
| Social Services | 0 | 13 | 24 | 50 | 5 |

*The numbers shown in these columns represent the number of local governing body votes, not assigned points.

Source: Survey of non-entitlement areas conducted by the Office of Community Development.

TABLE 12

RANKING OF PUBLIC FACILITY ACTIVITIES
Rank According to Need
February, 1999

| TYPE OF INFRASTRUCTURE | Raw Score Percent and Ranking of Response Indicating Top Priority | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | WEIGHTED SCORE | PERCENT | RANK |
| Streets | 193 | 19.1 | 1 |
| Sewer Collection | 192 | 19.0 | 2 |
| Drainage | 133 | 13.1 | 3 |
| Potable Water | 122 | 12.0 | 4 |
| Sewer Treatment | 119 | 11.7 | 5 |
| Water for Fire Protection | 111 | 11.0 | 6 |
| Neighborhood Facilities | 56 | 5.5 | 7 |
| Parks | 37 | 3.6 | 8 |
| Bridges | 19 | 1.9 | 9 |
| Gas | 18 | 1.8 | 10 |
| Solid Waste | 13 | 1.3 | 11 |
| | 1,013 | 100.0 | |

Source: Survey of non-entitlement areas conducted by the Office of Community Development.

TABLE 13

OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS HAVING PUBLIC SEWER CONNECTIONS
UNITED STATES AND LOUISIANA
1980

| COMMUNITIES BY SIZE | % WITH PUBLIC SEWER | |
|---|---|---|
| | U.S. | LA. |
| Places with 10,000 and more residents | 94.2 | 96.0 |
| Places with 2,500 to 10,000 residents | 86.9 | 82.3 |
| Places with 1,000 to 2,500 residents | 72.8 | 59.9 |

Source: 1980 Census of Housing, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 14

OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS LACKING SOME OR ALL PLUMBING
UNITED STATES AND LOUISIANA
1980

| | U.S. | LA. |
|---|---|---|
| Owner occupied units lacking some plumbing | 0.7% | 0.9% |
| Renter occupied units lacking some plumbing | 1.2% | 2.1% |
| Owner occupied units with no plumbing | 1.4% | 1.4% |
| Renter occupied units with no plumbing | 3.6% | 4.2% |

Source: 1980 Census of Housing, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

No census data is available for other types of infrastructure.

(7.34 percent versus 8.41 percent). Because some State economic data is not available after 1996, it will be used as the year of analysis.

Population and Income in Louisiana

Approximately five/sixths of the 19.2 percent per capita income disparity can be explained by the differential in employment earnings. The differential in employment earnings can be further divided between the percent of the State's population with paid employment and the average annual earnings received by those employees. As a percentage of the total population, Louisiana has five percent fewer people working. Table 15 compares the State's 1996 population relating to employment composition to similar data for the nation. The most important factor accounting for the five percent difference is Louisiana's lower labor force participation rate, followed by the smaller non-institutional population over sixteen. Louisiana's relatively higher unemployment rate is the smallest factor in accounting for the lower employed population ratio.

TABLE 15

POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT IN LOUISIANA
1996

| POPULATION | UNITED STATES | LOUISIANA |
|---|---|---|
| Non-institutional Population over 16 | 75.6percent | 73.9percent |
| Non labor Force Participants | 25.1percent | 28.1percent |
| Labor Force Participants | 50.5percent | 45.9percent |
| Employed Population | 47.8percent | 42.8percent |

Source:U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment and Earnings*, May, 1997.

Employment related income is the second largest component of per capita income difference. The average annual earnings received by an employed person in Louisiana was 86.4 percent of the national average in 1996 ($24,709 compared to $28,609). The State/National employment earnings differentials vary widely among industries; ranging from seventy-one percent in the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate industry to ninety-seven percent for the manufacturing industry (See Table 19 under the section entitled Industry Structure in the State). The final explanation for the State's lower per capita income is non employment income which can be divided into two components: property income (dividends, interest, and rent) and transfer payments. On a per capita basis Louisiana receives substantially less interest, dividends, and rental payments than the average American receives. But this is partially offset by a higher level of income transfer payments. Table 16 summarizes the 1996 per capita income difference between Louisiana and the nation by the three factors and their components as percentages of the total per capita income difference.

TABLE 16

Component Percentage of Per Capita Income Difference
1996

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Employed Population | | 42.18% |
| Smaller Non institutional population | 14.34% | |
| Lower Labor Force Participation Rate | 25.31% | |
| Higher Unemployment Rate | 2.53% | |
| Earnings | | 41.15% |
| Lower Wage and Salary Levels | 32.67% | |
| Lower Other Labor Income | 8.48% | |
| Other Income Sources | | 16.67% |
| Lower Property Income | 19.68% | |
| Higher Transfer payments | -3.01% | |
| TOTAL PER CAPITA INCOME DIFFERENCE | | 100.00% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, *1998 Statistical Abstract of the United States,* Tables 649, 694 and 626.

One consideration to keep in mind is that income differentials are not a comparable measure of a particular area's *standard of living.* This is because an area's standard of living is determined by adjusting income levels for differences in the *cost of living*, even within the same state. As can be seen in Table 17, all of the Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas except the Baton Rouge MSA have a lower cost of living index than the national average. Therefore for most of Louisiana a twenty percent lower per capita income would not translate into a twenty percent lower standard of living.

TABLE 17

Cost of Living Index for Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas
U.S. Average = 100.0%
1996

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria MSA | 92.0% | Monroe MSA | 96.7% |
| Baton Rouge MSA | 100.0% | New Orleans MSA | 94.9% |
| Lafayette MSA | 96.7% | Shreveport-Bossier MSA | 93.7% |
| Lake Charles MSA | 97.5% | | |

Source: Cost of Living Index- Selected Metropolitan Areas 1996, U.S. Bureau of Census, *1997 Statistical Abstract of the United States*, Table 755.

Industry Structure in Louisiana

Contrary to popular belief, Louisiana does have a high valued-added economy relative to other states. The average valued-added per employee in the nation (measured in terms of real Gross State Product using 1992 as the index year) for 1996 was $54,644 compared to $58,852 for Louisiana. This is primarily due to the high density of capital intensive sectors in the oil and gas extraction and petrochemical manufacturing industries. The higher valued-added output per employee unfortunately does not translate directly to higher than average pay because of the higher payments to production factors other than employee compensation. Table 18 shows the percentage distribution of payments to factors of production for 1996.

TABLE 18

COMPONENTS OF GROSS STATE PRODUCT
1996

| COMPONENT | UNITED STATES | LOUISIANA |
|---|---|---|
| Employee Compensation | 59.85% | 46.55% |
| Capital Income | 34.23% | 44.04% |
| Indirect Business Taxes | 7.93% | 9.41% |

Source: "Real Gross State Product by Major Industry for Selected Years," *Current Survey of Business*, June, 1998.

Despite the higher value-added per employee provided by Louisiana's economy the proportionate share per capita is 3.6 percent below the national average because of the lower employment to population ratio.

The division of Louisiana's economy between the production sector (farms, agricultural services, forestry and fisheries, mining, construction, and manufacturing) and the services sector (transportation and public utilities, wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance and real estate, services, and government) differs from the structure of the national economy. The production sector accounts for 38.7 percent of Louisiana's economy but only 26 percent of the national economy. The service sector accounts for a smaller share of Louisiana's economy; 61.3 percent as opposed to 74 percent of the national economy. This distribution is virtually unchanged from 1990. Table 19 provides a comparison of the respective industry distribution of the Gross State Product of Louisiana and the nation in 1996.

TABLE 19

INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION OF GROSS STATE PRODUCT
1996

| | UNITED STATES | LOUISIANA |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture , Forestry, Fisheries | 1.61 | 1.18 |
| Mining | 1.47 | 13.54 |
| Construction | 3.82 | 4.00 |
| Manufacturing | 19.12 | 20.02 |
| Transportation and Public Facilities | 8.84 | 9.30 |
| Wholesale Trade | 7.13 | 5.62 |
| Retail Trade | 9.37 | 8.42 |
| Finance, Insurance, Real Estate | 18.14 | 12.23 |
| Services | 19.40 | 15.05 |
| Government | 12.13 | 10.78 |

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis "Real Gross State Product by Major Industry for Selected Years", *Current Survey of Business*, June, 1998.

As mentioned above, the average earnings per employee (excluding agricultural employment) in Louisiana was approximately 86.5 percent of the national average in 1996. However, as shown in Table 20 the earnings differential is not distributed evenly over all industries.

TABLE 20

Louisiana Percentages of Average Annual Pay By Industry
1996

| | |
|---|---|
| Mining | 93.87% |
| Construction | 88.18% |
| Manufacturing | 96.97% |
| Transportation and Public Utilities | 90.23% |
| Wholesale | 81.52% |
| Retail | 86.55% |
| Finance, Real Estate, Insurance | 70.56% |
| Services | 83.14% |
| Government | 76.71% |
| STATE AVERAGE | 86.53% |

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Monthly Labor Review, May, 1997

## Louisiana’s Designated Economic Areas

The Bureau of Economic Analysis in the U.S. Department of Commerce groups regions of the country into economic areas that include all counties (parishes) centered around one or more metropolitan areas. There are seven economic areas that affect Louisiana; the New Orleans Economic Area which includes twelve parishes and one Mississippi county, the Baton Rouge Economic Area which includes ten Parishes and one Mississippi county, the Lafayette Economic Area which has eight parishes, the Lake Charles-Alexandria Economic Area which has ten parishes, the Shreveport Economic Area which includes ten parishes and two Arkansas counties, the Monroe Economic Area which has ten parishes, and the Natchez-Vicksburg Economic Area which includes four Louisiana parishes with several Mississippi counties. These areas can be further segmented by parishes designated as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and non-MSA parishes. The distinguishing feature of MSA parishes are the economic interdependence where employees may work in one location and reside in another. There are twenty-two MSA parishes and forty-two non-MSA parishes in Louisiana. Five of the MSA parishes are exclusively CDBG entitlement jurisdictions and five other parishes have entitlement jurisdictions within them.

Most of the MSA parishes are in the southeastern part of the State. The New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette Economic Areas contain sixteen of the State’s twenty-two MSA parishes. These sixteen parishes account for half the State’s population, 51.7 percent, 57.2 percent of the State’s employment, and 60 percent of the State’s payroll earnings. Adding their fourteen non-MSA parishes increases these three Economic Areas’ shares to the following: sixty-seven percent of the State’s population, 69.7 percent of the State’s employment and seventy-two percent of the State’s payroll earnings. In the period between 1970 and 1996 the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette Economic Areas increased its share of the State’s population from 62.7 percent to 67 percent and when the large population losses from Orleans Parish are excluded the shift is even more dramatic 55.4 percent in 1970 to 63 percent in 1996. Overall the population growth in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette Economic Areas grew five times faster than the other four Economic Areas between 1970 and 1996. The other four Economic Areas contain six MSA parishes and twenty-eight non-MSA parishes which together account for thirty-three percent of the State’s population and twenty-eight percent of its payroll earnings.

According to Table 21 approximately forty percent of the State/national per capita income differential can be attributed to the smaller non-institutional population factor and the lower labor force participation rate factor. By comparing population age groups with different labor force participation rates the effect on per capita income within the different economic areas and individual parishes can be examined.

Depicted in Table 22 is the breakdown of the State by Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) defined Economic Areas separated by MSA and non-MSA parishes. Each economic area is compared to the State average (State Average =100) in terms of the percent group population age 16-65 (64.6 percent of the State’s total population), the percent of the population age group with the highest male and female labor force participation rate: 25-44 years (29.7 percent of the State’s total population), and the population age group with the lowest labor force participation rate: 65 years and older (11.4 percent of the State’s total population). Next to the population age groups are the economic area’s or parish's per capita income averages (State average =100) with averages for annual wage and salary earnings per employee and the employment to population ratio included for reference. The calculations for these Economic Areas exclude the non-Louisiana counties.

A comparison of the MSA areas and non MSA areas by age group 25-44 years and age group 65 years and older with per capita income shows a general trend that the economic areas and parishes that have population groups with an above average 25-44 years age group and a lower sixty-five years and older group are correlated with higher economic area and parish per capita incomes and higher employment to population ratio.

All of the metropolitan economic areas, except the Lafayette MSA Economic Area, are at or above the State=s per capita income (Lafayette parish by itself is well above average per capita income). None of the forty-two non-MSA parishes are at or above the State=s per capita income level and with three exceptions all the non-MSA parishes have less than ninety percent of the State=s per capita income. All of the metropolitan economic areas, except the Lafayette MSA Economic Area are either above or are within two percent of the State=s employment to population ratio. All of the metropolitan economic areas have a population age group 25-44 above ninety percent of the State's average. Only five of the forty-two non-MSA parishes have an above average population percentage of ages 25-44 years and a below average percentage of age sixty-five years and older, and two of these parishes have large institutional populations (West Feliciana **B**prison), (Vernon **B**military base).

The non-MSA Shreveport, Monroe and Natchez-Vicksburg Economic Areas have less than eighty-seven percent of the State average population age group 25-44 years and more than 125 percent above the population age group sixty-five years and older and have average per capita incomes of eighty percent or below the State average.

The higher presence of population group sixty-five years or older in these areas has a special significance for the LCDBG program. Not only does it reduce the potential labor force of a given area and hence lessen its economic development potential, a higher population group sixty-five years or older also results in a larger relative low to moderate income household population. Nationwide for 1996, the population group sixty-five years or older represented 12.4 percent of the population but occupied 21.6 percent of the households and accounted for 39.8 percent of households with an annual income under $15,000.

Earnings from employment are not necessarily determinative of a state=s overall economic well being as measured by other socio-economic indicators such as a state=s median household income and poverty rate. Louisiana ranked 35$^{th}$ in the nation in average annual pay in 1996 while ranking much lower, 43$^{rd}$ place, in per capita income the same year. Louisiana=s median household income ranked close to its per capita income ranking, at 42$^{nd,}$ but it is tied for third place (48$^{th}$ from the top) in the 1996 poverty rate. A comparison with another state with similar earnings from employment makes this point. As can be seen in Table 23 both Utah=s 1996 average annual pay and its per capita income were virtually identical to Louisiana=s figures. However, Utah's median household income was substantially higher than Louisiana=s and was even above the United States 1996 median household income of $35,482. Even more dramatic is the poverty rate comparison. Although Utah=s 1996 per capita income was less than eighty percent of the national average its poverty rate was the second lowest in the nation at 7.7 percent, while Louisiana=s poverty rate with the same per capita income was nearly three times as high at 20.5 percent.

TABLE 21

COMPARATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC AND INCOME DATA
FOR LOUISIANA ECONOMIC AREAS
METROPOLITAN PARISHES
1996

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orleans MSA | | | | | | |
| Orleans | 99.47 | 100.20 | 114.37 | 140.58 | 112.65 | 114.88 |
| St Bernard | 101.94 | 101.68 | 104.73 | 56.71 | 90.11 | 93.15 |
| Plaquemine | 101.40 | 101.82 | 73.04 | 171.32 | 129.99 | 94.21 |
| Jefferson | 104.20 | 108.05 | 92.97 | 110.29 | 99.28 | 116.25 |
| St Charles | 101.93 | 111.80 | 66.95 | 98.33 | 138.99 | 104.89 |
| St John Bap | 98.77 | 111.71 | 64.29 | 68.03 | 103.99 | 89.77 |
| St James | 98.59 | 97.52 | 87.13 | 87.37 | 34.36 | 90.12 |
| St Tammany | 102.00 | 110.41 | 80.75 | 65.40 | 82.33 | 116.73 |
| | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| New Orleans EA | 101.67 | 105.21 | 97.16 | 111.15 | 106.45 | 112.60 |
| Baton Rouge MSA | | | | | | |
| East Baton Rouge | 104.93 | 105.67 | 82.67 | 138.72 | 105.55 | 117.09 |
| Livingston | 101.42 | 106.27 | 76.22 | 38.77 | 76.44 | 90.45 |
| Ascension | 100.77 | 105.79 | 72.82 | 95.24 | 120.88 | 105.08 |
| West Baton Rouge | 101.80 | 103.91 | 83.24 | 111.21 | 107.25 | 100.65 |
| | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Baton Rouge EA | 103.78 | 105.71 | 80.52 | 117.41 | 105.69 | 110.38 |
| Lafayette MSA | | | | | | |
| Lafayette | 103.56 | 109.48 | 76.85 | 135.00 | 107.05 | 112.02 |
| St Martin | 97.81 | 98.09 | 87.11 | 59.09 | 73.31 | 69.88 |
| Acadia | 94.72 | 91.55 | 110.07 | 63.04 | 75.29 | 79.41 |
| St Landry | 94.47 | 88.61 | 111.31 | 62.30 | 77.36 | 83.96 |
| | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Lafayette EA | 99.43 | 100.58 | 91.02 | 97.99 | 97.09 | 94.32 |
| Lake Charles EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Calcasieu | 100.17 | 99.08 | 98.92 | 107.08 | 106.45 | 101.90 |
| Shreveport EA | | | | | | |
| Caddo | 97.32 | 96.20 | 119.72 | 117.00 | 102.99 | 110.99 |
| Bossier | 102.80 | 104.39 | 82.75 | 101.84 | 88.55 | 100.18 |
| Webster | 94.52 | 87.43 | 147.12 | 68.65 | 83.50 | 83.73 |
| | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Shreveport EA | 98.35 | 97.22 | 113.75 | 107.85 | 98.25 | 105.36 |
| Monroe EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Ouachita | 99.22 | 93.50 | 102.35 | 107.73 | 95.08 | 99.55 |
| Alexandria EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Rapides | 98.09 | 97.27 | 110.10 | 101.16 | 90.08 | 99.74 |

Source: U. S. Bureau of Census, Population Estimates July 1, 1997; Bureau of Economic Analysis, Louisiana Total Personal Income and Per Capita; Bureau of Economic Analysis, Average Wage Per Job for Counties and Metropolitan Areas

TABLE 22

COMPARATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC AND INCOME DATA
FOR LOUISIANA ECONOMIC AREAS
NON-METROPOLITAN PARISHES
1996

| New Orleans EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tangipahoa | 98.01 | 94.79 | 101.19 | 78.70 | 75.83 | 80.82 |
| Washington | 95.86 | 93.10 | 129.32 | 68.93 | 81.21 | 82.45 |
| Lafourche | 101.14 | 99.19 | 86.91 | 73.02 | 90.25 | 88.85 |
| Terrebonne | 99.80 | 101.66 | 76.86 | 94.79 | 104.12 | 88.51 |
| | | | | | | |
| Baton Rouge EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| St Helena | 95.13 | 89.96 | 108.80 | 40.12 | 71.90 | 72.40 |
| East Feliciana | 101.14 | 109.35 | 92.58 | 58.24 | 78.70 | 83.98 |
| Assumption | 96.80 | 94.96 | 99.81 | 57.44 | 86.68 | 80.26 |
| Iberville | 100.03 | 104.18 | 96.44 | 104.43 | 137.15 | 89.70 |
| Pointe Coupee | 95.66 | 93.29 | 116.08 | 58.16 | 79.62 | 83.86 |
| West Feliciana | 117.61 | 149.46 | 61.30 | 113.22 | 131.82 | 64.39 |
| | | | | | | |
| Lafayette EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Iberia | 96.17 | 95.72 | 96.81 | 94.08 | 95.94 | 90.31 |
| St Mary | 98.12 | 97.97 | 86.24 | 115.88 | 108.32 | 86.34 |
| Vermillion | 93.86 | 92.21 | 122.42 | 68.64 | 90.85 | 83.41 |
| Evangeline | 93.19 | 85.96 | 121.94 | 58.68 | 73.82 | 73.71 |
| | | | | | | |
| Alex Lake Chas EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Lasalle | 95.05 | 89.59 | 145.75 | 73.22 | 82.28 | 76.66 |
| Grant | 94.99 | 91.05 | 125.48 | 36.15 | 73.86 | 70.37 |
| Avoyelles | 94.81 | 91.97 | 133.81 | 63.48 | 65.99 | 72.30 |
| Vernon | 108.83 | 104.54 | 52.17 | 94.06 | 98.80 | 74.08 |
| Allen | 103.09 | 113.28 | 107.94 | 78.52 | 76.59 | 68.58 |
| Jefferson Davis | 94.69 | 89.93 | 117.59 | 58.53 | 76.59 | 72.96 |
| Beauregard | 100.02 | 99.49 | 101.73 | 65.57 | 97.50 | 83.51 |
| Cameron | 99.02 | 98.25 | 94.29 | 93.87 | 110.67 | 79.20 |
| | | | | | | |
| Shreveport EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Desoto | 94.36 | 90.00 | 129.56 | 61.73 | 91.78 | 88.39 |
| Sabine | 92.19 | 82.17 | 151.59 | 61.86 | 75.91 | 78.04 |
| Natchitoches | 97.17 | 82.42 | 117.19 | 83.08 | 78.31 | 79.19 |
| Winn | 97.29 | 90.57 | 132.12 | 68.80 | 84.37 | 71.65 |
| Red River | 90.02 | 83.61 | 139.04 | 66.80 | 79.15 | 79.58 |
| Claiborne | 94.47 | 93.64 | 158.93 | 61.64 | 74.36 | 75.76 |
| Bienville | 90.34 | 80.58 | 164.88 | 63.19 | 84.59 | 77.61 |
| | | | | | | |
| Monroe EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Lincoln | 107.00 | 79.11 | 100.94 | 106.27 | 85.09 | 92.41 |
| Union | 94.19 | 86.63 | 144.54 | 60.26 | 71.85 | 91.38 |
| Jackson | 92.78 | 83.18 | 151.82 | 68.02 | 89.64 | 83.38 |
| Caldwell | 95.25 | 86.74 | 137.60 | 61.24 | 72.72 | 78.30 |
| Morehouse | 92.37 | 85.90 | 131.70 | 70.55 | 85.59 | 80.56 |
| West Carroll | 92.59 | 83.91 | 146.67 | 53.46 | 67.36 | 68.11 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Carroll | 87.57 | 75.21 | 119.64 | 66.98 | 67.64 | 70.80 |
| Richland | 90.48 | 84.77 | 141.85 | 74.64 | 70.40 | 79.42 |
| Franklin | 91.86 | 82.07 | 139.57 | 66.38 | 64.53 | 74.26 |
| | | | | | | |
| Vicksburg Natchez EA | **Age 16-65** | **Age 25-44** | **Age 65+** | **EMP POP** | **Wage/Sal** | **Per Cap Inc** |
| Madison | 91.49 | 79.81 | 119.12 | 73.11 | 66.14 | 76.06 |
| Tensas | 87.38 | 85.51 | 149.96 | 69.98 | 72.53 | 87.98 |
| Catahoula | 94.33 | 89.61 | 122.57 | 58.95 | 62.45 | 77.29 |
| Concordia | 96.19 | 88.09 | 111.46 | 61.77 | 71.18 | 79.26 |

Source: U. S. Bureau of Census, Population Estimates July 1, 1997; Bureau of Economic Analysis, Louisiana Total Personal Income and Per Capita; Bureau of Economic Analysis, Average Wage Per Job for Counties and Metropolitan Areas

TABLE 23

Income Comparison Between Louisiana, Utah, and the United States

| AREA | EARNINGS | PER CAPITA INCOME | MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME | POVERTY RATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Louisiana | $24,541 | $17,841 | $30,262 | 20.5percent |
| Utah | $24,572 | $17,547 | $37,038 | 7.7percent |
| United States | $28,948 | $22,120 | $35,482 | 13.7percent |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, *1998 Statistical Abstract of the United States,* Tables 694, 727, 744 and 761.

Part of the reason for the disparity between the earnings and per capita income figures versus household income and poverty rate figures among Louisiana and Utah is that median household income and poverty rates are measured by the number of households in a State.

Louisiana's similar income is spread over a proportionately larger number of households yielding less income per household. Louisiana's rate of household formation relative to population growth is growing at a faster rate than the nation. Between 1990 and 1996 the nation's increase in households grew less than one percent faster than population 7.4 percent to 6.6 percent compared to Louisiana which increased its population 2.8 percent while the number of households grew 4.8 percent.

Efforts to improve a given area's economic development are constrained by the area's demographics. Areas with below average population percentages in age groups that have high labor force participation rates and above average population percentages in age groups with lower labor force participation rates are going to be hard pressed to compete with areas with more favorable demographics. Beyond the normal demographics Louisiana's socio-economic measurements are not explainable through strictly economic analysis. The lower labor force participation rate and higher household formation rate that affect its socio-economic measurements are more cultural phenomea than economic occurrences.

## Geographic Distribution

Eligible applicants under the LCDBG Program are those units of general local government in non-entitlement areas; non-entitlement areas are municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 and parishes with an unincorporated population of less than 200,000. The following units of local government are not eligible: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bossier City, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, Jefferson Parish (including Grand Isle, Gretna, Harahan, Jean Lafitte, and Westwego), Kenner, Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport, Slidell, and Thibodaux.

The LCDBG funds are awarded on a competitive basis; therefore, the ultimate geographic distribution of non-housing community development funds cannot be predicted.

Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs

All of the non-housing community development activities which will be funded under the LCDBG Program will address the goal of improving the living conditions of the State's low and moderate income citizens in all regions of the State including underserved small cities and rural areas. The main obstacle to meeting the underserved needs is lack of funding. The amount of funds requested for the CDBG projects far exceeds the amount of funds available from the LCDBG Program as well as other state and federal programs.

## BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Workshops and seminars for both non-profit and for-profit developers will be offered to provide necessary technical assistance in structuring projects which leverage various sources of both public and private funding. The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency will certify and assist Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) in the development of affordable rental housing and has implemented a home ownership program utilizing HOME funds for construction of affordable single family homes with below market financing for low income buyers to be provided through a CHDO set-aside of Mortgage Revenue Bond monies with HOME funding offering assistance with down payment and closing costs. Louisiana Housing Finance Agency program will encourage the development of partnerships between for-profit developers, non-profit organizations, local governmental units, commercial lending institutions and State and federal agencies in an effort to reduce barriers and encourage community support for affordable housing.

## LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARDS

On June 1, 1993, the Louisiana State Legislature enacted Chapter 15-A of Title 30 entitled "Lead Hazard Reduction, Licensure and Certification" and mandated the Department of Environmental Quality/Air Quality Compliance Division (DEQ/AQCD) to develop and implement a program to address lead hazards associated with lead based paint. The DEQ program, which began in 1994, has the following two-fold purpose:

1. To establish and implement rules that govern lead based paint activities; and
2. To establish and implement a public outreach program in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHH), the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES), and other state and local entities that will inform the citizens of Louisiana of lead based paint hazards.

The following table lists state agencies involved in various lead based paint programs.

| AGENCY | ROLE | CONTACT PERSON(S) | PHONE NUMBER |
|---|---|---|---|
| DEQ-AQCD-LEAD | Compliance and Public Outreach | Jerry Freedman | (225) 765-2554 |
| LCES | Information/ Public Outreach | Parish extension Home economist | Check local parish government listing under Extension Service-LSU Agricultural Center |
| DHH Sanitarian Services | Testing houses after a child is diagnosed with an elevated blood lead level | Local Health Unit | Check parish health unit listing. |
| DHH/Office of Public Health | Childhood Lead Poisoning/Steps to take after an elevated blood lead level has been determined in a child | Eve Flood<br><br>Charlie Myers | (504) 568-5070<br><br>(504) 568-5171 |

Other state agencies which promote affordable housing through renovation, reconstruction and new construction/replacement activities include the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency and the Office of Community Development. Both these agencies adhere to and support lead based paint hazard reduction activities and the integration of reduction policies in all housing policies and programs.

Generally, all housing rehabilitation, reconstruction and replacement activities funded by the State will be required to evidence that inspections and risk assessments of the existence of lead based paint were conducted and that when lead was found to be present appropriate interim controls and abatement measures were taken consistent with federal, state, and local law.

For those persons living in an older home (pre-1978) who plan to do any remodeling or refinishing, a copy of the EPA pamphlet (Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home) (EPA 747-R-94-0002 4/94) will be helpful. This pamphlet explains about pre-testing, proper equipment use, safe work practices, and cleanup. The pamphlet also provides a checklist and a list of helpful contacts to assist in getting the job done properly. The pamphlet is available at many local retail outlets or from the DEQ Lead Program. The LCES also has an excellent fact sheet (Removing Lead Based Paint in Homes) (pub. 2564), available from each parish's office of the cooperative extension service.

## ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

According to information released by the Census Bureau in February, 1999, Louisiana had the nation's second highest rate of poverty in 1995, exceeded only by the State of Mississippi. In 1995, the latest year for which figures are available, 21.2 percent of Louisiana's residents lived in poverty, compared to 21.4 percent for Mississippi. That figure means that 912,513 people in Louisiana lived below the poverty line in 1995; nationally, 13.8 percent of Americans lived in poverty in 1995. A family of four was considered poor if its income was below $15,569 per year. The Louisiana rate followed a national trend, dropping from 23.9 percent in 1993 (a reduction of 90,000 people). Of those living in poverty in 1995, 388,182 were under the age of eighteen according to the Census Bureau.

Six nonentitlement parishes in Louisiana had more than thirty percent poverty rates in 1995 including East Carroll Parish (48.6 percent), Madison Parish (36.9 percent), Franklin Parish (31.2 percent), Richland Parish (30.9 percent), and Avoyelles Parish and St. Landry Parish (each with 30.1 percent).

The lowest poverty rates were in St. Tammany Parish (11.6 percent), St. Charles Parish (12.7 percent), Livingston Parish (13.5 percent), and Bossier Parish (13.9 percent).

The average household income in Louisiana in 1995 was $27,265, the fifth lowest in the United States, compared to the national average of $24,076. The only states with lower average household incomes were Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

The very low income groups in Louisiana included recipients of public assistance. Approximately one in twenty Louisiana residents received benefits from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program in 1996. The average AFDC case in Louisiana consisted of a mother and two children. The average monthly AFDC cash grant to a family of three was $156. Between 1990 and 1995, the number of AFDC recipients in Louisiana fell by 10.8 percent (in contrast to a 19.1 percent increase nationwide). The following table illustrates the change in welfare caseloads in the State of Louisiana from January, 1993, through December, 1998.

**Total AFDC/TANF recipients**

| **State** | **Jan.93** | **Jan.94** | **Jan.95** | **Jan.96** | **Jan.97** | **Jan.98** | **Dec.98** | **Percent change (93-98)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Louisiana | 263,338 | 252,860 | 258,180 | 239,247 | 206,582 | 118,404 | 128,016 | -51% |

Source: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

In January, 1997, the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) implemented welfare reform in Louisiana as a result of both state and federal legislation. State and federal laws replaced the entitlement program, AID to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the JOBS program with a block grant - the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grant program. The department's cash assistance program was re-named the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP). Project Independence, Louisiana's JOBS program, became the Family Independence Work Program (FIND Work) and began operations under that title in May, 1997.

The overall goal of the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) is to decrease long term dependency on welfare assistance through job preparation, work and marriage. Funds are also being used on efforts to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. All teen parents must attend parenting skills classes. Under the mandates of the welfare reform legislation, public assistance is no longer a lifetime benefit.

Instead, it is an opportunity to become independent after a financial crisis.

The number of FITAP cases in Louisiana as of December, 1998, was 44,377. In an effort to assist FITAP recipients to become employed, the FIND Work program provides an array of services including child care, transportation, education, job skills training, job search, community work experience, and other work-related activities. Fundamental to the program's success is the provision of child care and other support services as well as intensive case management counseling services. Since program inception and as of September 30, 1998, FIND Work statistics reflected 47,033 job placements, with 26,961 of those earning wages sufficient to close their FITAP cash assistance cases. A total of 8,490 individuals are employed and receiving reduced FITAP subsidies. The program has assisted some 5,095 participants in obtaining high school diplomas and 10,918 in obtaining their education degrees. As of December, 1998, 1,901 participants were involved in unpaid community service to enhance their work skills and experience in order to more effectively compete in the job market.

In late 1990, in response to federal legislation, the Project Independence Program was implemented in Louisiana to assist recipients in becoming self-supporting. This welfare reform effort was enhanced by the mandates of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, and as a result, Project Independence became Family Independence Work Program (FIND Work). FIND Work provides a variety of services and work activities for recipients, including basic education and educational upgrade, vocational education job readiness and search activities, on-the-job training and other work experience placements, and subsidized employment opportunities.

These programs have provided the opportunities necessary for many recipients to "break the welfare cycle." As of December 31, 1998, 51,918 recipients have become employed.

Louisiana continues to provide programs and initiatives in the areas of education, vocational training, literacy, and workforce development to alleviate the conditions of poverty in the State. Examples of such activities are:

Through a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor, the Louisiana Department of Labor continued development of One-Stop Career Centers throughout the State. Ultimately there will be at least one center in each parish offering the services available in its area, ranging from large comprehensive regional service centers to career information centers with access to career development and job information with minimal staff assistance. The One-Stop system, built as a partnership between local and State initiatives and now mandated by the recently enacted Workforce Investment Act, is designed to link local service providers into a seamless service delivery system that facilitates the growth and development of the Louisiana labor force.

The objectives of the One-Stop Center system are to ease customer access through a single point of entry to all services, to establish a unified approach to program intake, assessment, case management and job placement; to accomplish a better match of training and placements with labor market needs, to ease employer use by unifying all employer-related services so they can be accessed via one liaison person and to increase the number of businesses using public employment and training services, and to establish a unified development planning process to offer a comprehensive response to the full array of workforce development needs. Each One-Stop Center is a physical location where customers receive high quality, user friendly, employment, training and labor market information from knowledgeable staff. Each center contains a Career Resource Center which allows customers to explore job and training information at their own speed. The Job Service, JTPA, Department of Social Services (WorkFirst), Women's Services, Adult Education, Vocational Technical Colleges, Vocational Rehabilitation, Elderly Affairs, HUD, and Community Action Agencies with local business advice and support are working together as a team to make services readily available to all customers. Electronic linkages via the Internet allow universal access to information and services throughout each community. Services are available in the areas of career exploration, career development, and job search assistance. Available equipment includes computers installed with word processing training packages and resumé preparation packages, Internet access, laser jet printers, copying machines and fax machines.

The Louisiana Department of Economic Development's Division for Economically Disadvantaged Business Development (EDBD) [Phone: (225) 342-5373] was established to help economically disadvantaged businesses to become competitive in this economy. EDBD is a managerial, technical and indirect financial assistance resource provider for certified small and emerging economically disadvantaged businesses. The Division endeavors to fulfill this goal by developing and implementing policies and programs created to uplift Economically Disadvantaged Businesses (EDBs) and encourage them to help themselves.

The Division provides certified small business owners with resource assistance in many areas, including the development of business plans, marketing plans, financial projection statements as well as computer accounting training, among other activities. This assistance is offered through state-wide Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and other approved service providers, such as consultants and trained professionals with which the Division has developed partnerships. These professionals and SBDCs provide workshops and training that economically disadvantaged businesses may need.

EDBD has the following programs in operation designed to assist certified EBDs:

Developmental Assistance Program

This program focuses on coordinating technical, managerial, and indirect financial assistance through internal and external resources. Some developmental aspects that EDBs often require assistance with are business plans, marketing, upgrading computer skills, and financial projection statements.

The Division meets with the inquiring certified EDB to assess where they are in the progress and development of their business. Once an advisor and the business owner understand the financial and managerial status of the business, the business owner and advisor work together to establish goals and maps out how they plan for the business to reach these goals. This process also helps the business identify any obstacles that are keeping them from reaching their goals.

After the EDB and small business advisor has had an opportunity to create a strategy for addressing these obstacles, consultants are employed to aid the business in overcoming these obstacles.

In order to better benefit the EDB, the business is periodically evaluated to determine additional levels of assistance to ensure attainment of identified goals.

This program is an excellent tool to assist currently certified EDBs with obtaining competitive status in their respective markets.

Small Business Bonding Program

The primary goal of this program is to aid certified EDBs in acquiring quality bid, performance, and payment bonds at reasonable rates from surety companies.

EDBs receive help reaching required bonding capacity for specific projects. Contractors often do not reach these levels on their own due to balance sheet deficiencies and a lack of adequate managerial and technical skills.

The Louisiana Contractors Accreditation Institute (LCAI) was established to improve managerial and technical skills. LCAI provides business and construction management instruction ranging from the bid process to fiscal management. These classes are developed and taught by leaders of the construction industry via satellite and downloaded to state-wide sites.

After certification by the Division and accreditation by LCAI, contractors are eligible to receive bond guarantee assistance to be used as collateral when seeking bonds. The Division will issue a letter of credit to the surety for an amount up to twenty-five percent of the base contract amount or $200,000. The Small Business Bonding Assistance Program corrects balance sheet deficiencies. A contractor's questionnaire is used to determine the extent of assistance needed.

This program employs the Bonding Model to help contractors become more self sufficient in securing future bonds for their company. The Bonding Model consists of three main interdependent components; the Surety Coordinator, the Department of Economic Development, and a Management Construction Company.

The Surety Coordinator serves as the model manager and is responsible for the coordination and underwriting of the program. The Department of Economic Development directs distribution and marketing throughout the state. The Management Construction Company is the construction manager for the model.

All non-construction businesses qualify for surety bid, performance, and payment bond guarantee assistance upon receipt of certification as an economically disadvantaged business.

Promotion of EDBs

In an effort to promote certified economically disadvantaged businesses, EDBD compiles and distributes an updated directory of all currently certified EDBs. Other means employed to promote EDBs include the Internet, trade shows, Matchmaker and private contacts. EDBD also enlists the services of both state and private agencies to provide procurement opportunities for the development of certified EDBs and help promote services that these small businesses have to offer.

The following items represent the coordination of anti-poverty and affordable housing programs and policies.

- LHFA has and will continue to encourage developers of rental projects assisted with financing through the Mortgage Revenue Bond, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and HOME Programs to provide a tenant benefit package that includes, but is not limited to, day care, after care and job training opportunities for low income residents.

- For rental housing projects, LHFA will encourage the development of computer-based learning centers at the site of the project, similar to the Hamilton Terrace Learning Center.

- Public housing authorities will be enlisted to act as an anti-poverty catalyst by promoting family self-sufficiency opportunities.

- Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) will be encouraged and assisted in an effort to incorporate job training and supportive services in the development of CHDO owned, sponsored or developed housing.

Additional information regarding anti-poverty policies and program is provided in the FY 2000 Annual Action Section entitled Other Actions – Policies for the Reduction of the Number of Families Below Poverty Level.

**INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE**

The State encourages interagency coordination in the development and implementation of housing and non-housing support service policy and delivery mechanisms through the routine practices of the four agencies involved in the consolidated planning process.

The State will continue to promote the further development and capacity of Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to develop, own and sponsor affordable housing projects. The State also plans to continue its coordination with local banks, mortgage lenders, and financial institutions in the development of housing and economic development projects. Selection criteria is included in both the rental housing program to provide an incentive for the development of housing in areas targeted by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development to benefit from the location of new facilities.

Examples of how the State is working with other sources to address gaps which may exist are identified in the following section entitled Coordinated Strategy and in the section entitled FY 2000 Annual Action Plan – Other Actions – Institutional Structure.

**COORDINATED STRATEGY**

Since the State of Louisiana assumed the administration of the Community Development Block Grant Program for Small Cities in 1982, other state agencies have been very involved in the review of the public facilities applications. For those projects involving project severity points, other state agencies review the proposed project and provide the Office of Community Development with a priority rating of one to ten with ten being the most severely needed project; those ratings are then converted into a score by multiplying the priority rating by five. Out of a seventy point system for the FY 2000 public facility projects, up to fifty points can be received for project severity. The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals reviews projects involving potable water and sewerage projects. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality also reviews projects requesting funds for sewerage system improvements. Water projects for the purpose of fire protection are reviewed by the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana. This process enables the Office of Community Development and the other agencies to meet their own goals and objectives. The other state agencies do not have the funding resources available to remedy the infrastructure problems throughout the State. The evaluation enables those agencies to identify the most severely needed projects which can often be addressed through LCDBG funding. As this process has proved invaluable over the past eighteen program years, the role of other state cognizant agencies is expected to continue during the next five program years.

Beginning with the FY 1996 LCDBG Program, bonus points have been given to those applicants which have housing and public facilities target areas within the boundaries of a federally designated Enterprise Community as defined by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

As was discussed in the previous section entitled Institutional Structure, the Office of Community Development works in coordination with other funding sources for the purpose of accomplishing similar goals and addressing financial gaps which may occur. The Office of Community Development, during the forthcoming five year period, will cooperate and coordinate with other agencies and programs whenever the need for such arises.

The selection criteria under the HOME and Low Income Housing Tax Credits Programs have been and will continue to be tailored to address Louisiana's identified housing priorities and to provide for coordination with the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and local housing authorities. Bonus points may also be awarded to projects which are certified by associations representing the homeless, such as a Continuum, as providing one or more buildings for homeless or other special needs persons within multi-building projects.

The principal State coordinating mechanism for homeless assistance services is the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homeless (LIACH). This state commission comprises representatives of the following agencies and interests: Governor's Executive Office (1), Governor's Offices of Elderly Affairs (1), Veterans Affairs (1), Women's Services (1), Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (1), Department of Corrections:, Office of Adult Services (1), Office of Youth Services (1), Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism:, Office of Cultural Development (1), Department of Education (1), Department of Labor (1), Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH) Bureau of Health

Services Financing (1), DHH/Office of Alcohol & Drug Abuse (1), Office of Mental Health (1), Office/Citizens w/ Developmental Disabilities (1), Office of Public Health (1), Department of Social Services:, Office of Community Services, Child Welfare Program (1), Grants Management Division (1), Office of Family Support (1), La. Rehabilitation Services (1), Member - La. House of Representaives, Member - La. Senate, Member - Drug Policy Board, 3 Members - Service Providers, 2 members - local government agencies, 2 members - local advocacy groups, Member - non-profit legal services agency, 4 members - at large.

The duties of the Commission include:

- Preparing an annual assessment and evaluation of service needs and resources for the homeless of the state
- Research and assist in the development of funding resources for homeless services
- Insure that services for all homeless persons of the State are appropriately planned and coordinated thereby reducing duplication among programs and activities by state agencies and other providers of services. The Council shall participate in the development of all planning related to the McKinney Act
- Monitor and evaluate assistance to homeless persons provided by all levels of government and the private sector and make or recommend policy changes to improve such assistance
- Assure flow of information among separate service providers, government agencies and appropriation authorities
- Disseminate timely information of federal, state or private resources available to assist the homeless population
- Consult and coordinate all activities with the Federal Interagency Council for the Homeless, HUD and all other federal agencies that provide assistance to the homeless
- Submit an annual report of its activities to the governing bodies of the agencies represented on the Council
- At least thirty days prior to the opening of the legislative session, the Council shall submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature recommending improvements to the service delivery system for the homeless. The report shall also detail any actions taken by the council to improve the provision of services for the homeless and include recommendations to improve the operation of the Council.

The ESG Program Manager within the Department of Social Services has served as the State Contact Person for Homeless Issues functioning as a single point of contact and State liaison for communications with federal, state and local entities on matters relating to the State's homeless people and at risk persons and families. This official disseminates and facilitates the flow of available information on homelessness in Louisiana and homeless assistance resources. The State Contact is an advocate for development of resources and collaborative systems to address the unmet needs of homeless people in the State. The Contact Person also is responsible to provide appropriate public information to enhance knowledge on homelessness and homeless resource subjects. The State ESGP administrative agency has responsibility to maintain the State's inventory of facilities and services to assist homeless persons and produces reports and resource directories for public distribution. The Department of Social Services also provided administrative support for the Louisiana Homeless Trust Fund and has coordinative responsibilities with respect to funding applications and technical aid to entities interested in development of homeless assistance resources in local communities.

Coordination of local homeless assistance activities is facilitated through the efforts of regional collaboratives and coalitions as follows:

| Region | Resource Collaborative/Coalition |
|---|---|
| I | UNITY for the Homeless |
| II | Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless |
| III | Lafourche, Terrebonne Assumption Homeless Partnership |
| IV | ARCH -The Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness & Housing, Inc. |
| V | Southwestern Louisiana Homeless Coalition, Inc. |
| VI | Central Louisiana Coalition to End Homelessness |
| VII | Homeless Coalition of Northwest Louisiana |
| VIII | Region VIII Coalition for Homeless Awareness and Prevention (CHAP) |
| IX | Northlake Continuum of Care Coalition |
| X | Alliance for the Homeless - River Parishes |

The number of families and individuals in the United States who were once or are currently homeless is staggering by any measure. Researchers have found that as many as 600,000 people are homeless on any given night. This figure leads one to ask why so many individuals and families have been afflicted.

Homelessness can best be understood as including two broad, sometimes overlapping categories of problems or causes. The first is people living in poverty-persons or families whose lives are routinely marked by hardship which causes episodic bouts of homelessness. Federal and State aid and other income this group receives has continually been out-paced by rising housing costs and inflationary trends. Persons in this category are in essence one paycheck from homelessness. The structural causes which are the fundamental root of all homelessness are the lack of affordable housing; poverty; changes in family structure; drugs; drugs, disabilities, and chronic health problems; and changes in labor market.

Homeless men and women with chronic disabilities – substance abuse, severe mental illness, chronic health problems such as HIV/AIDS, and or longstanding family difficulties – represent the second category of homelessness. This group suffers from prolonged periods of homelessness which tend to make them the most visible in the public's image. Disability coupled with the toll of street living make there situation more complex than those who are homeless because of crisis poverty. Those with chronic disability require not only economic assistance, but rehabilitation and on going support as well.

What do we do to begin approaching homelessness in wake of a new millennium? Continue to move homeless persons to permanent housing. The foundation has been laid with the full faith and credit on the United States Congress. Congress states that it is the policy of the United States to promote the general welfare of the nation by employing its funds and credit to assist the several States and their political subdivisions to remedy the unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions and the acute shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for families of lower income and, to vest in local public housing agencies the maximum amount of responsibility in the administration of their housing programs.

To prevent the occurrence of homelessness among the very poor in our society, comprehensive community planning and economic development is needed. Increased cooperation and coordination is essential to remove the institutional barriers to provide an integrated and holistic support system for low-income persons. This Continuum of Care philosophy strives to fulfill those requirements with three fundamental components: emergency shelter, transitional housing with social services, and permanent housing. This approach is predicated on the understanding that homelessness is not caused merely by a lack of shelter, but involves a variety of underlying, unmet needs – physical, economic, and social. For the future it is imperative that we reassess and redirect the continuum of care as demography and needs of homeless change.

**LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS**

The State plans to coordinate the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program with the development of housing for which rents are affordable to very low and other low income households by structuring its program to work in complement with other housing programs administered by the Agency including the HOME Program. Tax credit applications have been designed to incorporate a funding request for HOME Program assistance. Funding rounds for tax credits and other housing programs will be coordinated. Workshops and seminars will be convened for the affordable housing community in order to provide the necessary technical assistance to produce affordable rental housing utilizing the resources from all programs.

**PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT INITIATIVES**

As the State of Louisiana does not have a State public housing agency which administers public housing funds, the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency will coordinate with the Louisiana Housing Council (the State chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) in reaching the one hundred five Public Housing Agencies throughout Louisiana to assure that:

1. Each Public Housing Agency has an active resident association.
2. The resident associations are aware that the Louisiana Legislature by Act 1188 in the 1997 regular session amended R.S. 40:381 to provide for PHA's to enter into various relationships and agreements for the development and operation of PHAs.
3. The resident associations are aware of the opportunities to become more involved in management and other activities of the PHAs.
4. That the ultimate goal and objective of the resident association is to work with the PHAs and the LHFA to provide homeownership opportunities.

The Board of Commissioners of LHFA includes a representative from the Louisiana Housing Council who has mediated information and partnership initiatives with the public housing authorities throughout the State. In order to facilitate the participation of public housing authorities, the LHFA has implemented several initiatives which include:

* All market studies for new construction submitted by Independent Qualified Housing Consultants must contain a certification as to the status of the local public housing authority's waiting

list of eligible tenants who may occupy the units of a low income housing development funded with Agency resources and must further certify the percentage of vacancies in the habitable units of the public housing authority. The Independent Qualified Housing Consultant must further certify that the appropriate local offices of HUD and Rural Development have been contacted to verify that the existing multifamily housing developments subsidized, insured, funded or sponsored by such agencies will not be materially adversely effected by the additional units proposed in the project.

* Bonus points are awarded to developers of low income housing seeking resources from the LHFA if the developer submits an executed referral agreement with the local public housing authority pursuant to which the developer agrees to rent low income units to households at the top of the public housing authority waiting list.

* A special public housing authority pool of tax credits has been established to allocate low in come housing tax credits to housing developments sponsored or developed by public housing authorities.

* The limitation of tax credits per project has been increased in connection with projects sponsored by public housing authorities receiving HOPE VI funds.

**MONITORING**

Program evaluation and monitoring is the mechanism by which the State of Louisiana provides administrative oversight to recipients of HUD funds. All State recipients, sub-recipients, grantees and awardees of HUD funds are specifically required to evidence their familiarity with and intent to be bound by all federal and state regulations applicable to the assistance provided. In addition to the specific regulatory requirements of the particular HUD Program through which the funding is made available, State recipients, sub-recipients, grantees and awardees are generally required to comply with other federal requirements including, but not limited to:

- The Fair Housing Act, as implemented by 24 CFR Part 100;
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, implemented by 24 CFR Part 1;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as implemented by 24 CFR Part 146;
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as implemented by 24 CFR Part 8;
- Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968;
- Executive Order 11063, as amended, and implemented by Part 107;
- Executive Order 11246, as implemented by 41 CFR Chapter 60;
- Executive Orders 11625 and 12432 (concerning minority business enterprise), and 12138 (concerning women's business enterprise);
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;
- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by regulations at 24 CFR Parts 50 and 58;
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as implemented by regulations at 94 CFR Part 24;
- The Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a-5), the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act

(40 U.S.C. 327-332) and HUD Handbook 1344.1;
- The Conflict of Interest provisions in 24 CFR Part 85 and OMB Circular A-110;
- The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973;
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-87, A-110, A-122, and/or A-133 single audit requirements, as applicable.

The compliance standards required by the specific HUD program funding sources, as well as the standards required by other applicable federal requirements have been universally adopted by those State agencies administering HUD funds. Agency or program staff are charged with the responsibility of assuring that all recipients of funding, from the particular administering agency, carry out their program activities in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. In carrying out this responsibility, program staff have been directed to identify programs early in program implementation, isolate the causes and assist in corrective measures. These monitoring activities are conducted in a positive, assistance-oriented manner, and when feasible, deficiencies are corrected on-site through technical assistance. Funding applications, regulatory agreements, reporting forms and audit formats have been established by each State agency which make compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations a “threshold” responsibility.

The monitoring and evaluation functions as described in the LCDBG Monitoring Plan described hereafter are exemplary of the procedures most commonly followed (with minor variations and exceptions) by the state agencies which administer the four HUD-funded programs.

Program monitoring and evaluation consist of three major functions:

- Education
- Ongoing evaluation and assistance
- On-site assistance

Education is provided by workshops, manuals and handouts that tell recipients how to do something and explain why it must be done. Ongoing evaluation and assistance is the systematic process used to maintain contact with all recipients in order to tract their progress, make comparisons between and among grantees, and identify “slow performing” grantees for early contact and assistance.

On-site assistance includes, among other things, monitoring and the provision of technical assistance. This function is the one most critical to effective program implementation. Experience indicates that it is during those visits that most major problems are discovered. Education and ongoing assistance essentially support compliance and often prevent the major problems from developing.

Ongoing evaluation and assistance is the primary means of tracing grantee performance/compliance on a day to day basis, determining the need for technical assistance, obtaining data to plan for the routine site visits, and determining the need for exception site visits. In keeping with the objective of minimizing monitoring burdens for the recipients, the system utilizes, to the extent possible, existing data that is routinely submitted for other purposes. Such mechanisms include:

- Recipient’s application
- Implementation schedule
- Final compliance report
- Budget reconciliation

- Recipient's contract
- Requests for payment
- Request for release of funds
- Verification of contractor eligibility
- Citizen complaints
- Audits
- Tickler reports
- Exception Reports

Other sources for charting the recipient's performance include:

- Change in activities due to amendments and budget revisions;
- Changes in funds budgeted due to application amendments; and
- Changes in completion dates due to revised schedules and contract extensions.

Additionally, drawdown requests provide current information on the overall status of a recipient's program. The drawdown file is used as a tool to determine the following:

- Cumulative drawdowns are compared to funds budgeted to assure the amount drawn does not exceed the budgeted amount without appropriate changes. Periodically, the program schedule contained in the contract is cross-checked. Discrepancies between the schedule and the amount drawn are resolved with the recipient;
- Timetables are regularly reviewed to spot activities for which no funds have been drawn after a certain period beyond the initiation date of the activities; and
- Whenever appropriate, revised implementation schedules are requested. The recipient is required to submit a detailed description indicating the activities which will be undertaken to complete the project within the timeframe of the contract. A revised schedule must also be obtained from the recipient when a contract extension is approved.

Complaints made to the State about a recipient's program are also valuable sources of compliance information. A record of the complaints received, identifying the actions taken and the results of the actions are maintained. All complaints suggesting problems in performance or compliance are examined to assess the recipient's need for regular or exception monitoring assistance. The handling of complaints must be documented in the permanent project files.

The State is committed to substantial on-site compliance assistance. This includes reviews of grantee performance and compliance as well as the provision of technical assistance to facilitate the correction of any problems identified during on-site reviews. This methodology is believed to be the most effective procedure to assure full compliance with both the letter and spirit of applicable federal and state law and guidelines.

The Compliance Division of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency actively monitors all HOME properties. Annual physical inspections, file audits and desk reviews permit the staff to monitor the property's adherence to the requirements stipulated in the HOME regulatory agreement regarding occupancy and eligibility requirements. Implementation of the administrative procedures for compliance is vested in the property management agents and on-site personnel. The Compliance Division's analysis of a project's management practices, occupancy and leasing requirements also safeguards that programs are operated professionally and efficiently.

The general procedure for HOME monitoring parallels other program monitoring. The

Compliance Division receives documentation, in the form of a transcript or regulatory agreement, that the funding process has been completed. The information, i.e., number of units, number of buildings, owner, etc., is then entered into the data base.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 92.504 Final Rule, site inspections of HOME assisted properties are scheduled. The Compliance Division gives advance notification of the site visit to the Owner to allow for scheduling conflicts, tenant notifications or other unforeseen delays. The properties must meet Housing Quality Standards for decent, safe and sanitary housing. Physical inspections consist of the interiors and exteriors of the property. The number of the set aside units for compliance are monitored. If the Compliance Division observes deficiencies, owners must rectify them within time frames as allowed by HUD. The Compliance Division processes to resolution any problems arising from the inspection.

At the option of the Compliance Division, an audit of the tenant files is conducted on-site or a desk review is performed in the office. This review ensures that record keeping requirements regarding leasing requirements, rent and income limits and all other factors regarding tenant eligibility are satisfied.

The HOME program regulations require all participating jurisdictions to use Section 8 program income definitions. To be eligible for assistance under the HOME program, households must have incomes at or below eighty percent of the median income as adjusted by household size. The Compliance Division monitors income limit requirements. In the event there is a discrepancy regarding tenant income and income limit requirements, correction must be made and documented in the Compliance Division file. The Compliance Division processes to resolution any problems arising from the file audit.

Under the Substandard Housing Assistance for Rural Economies (SHARE) grant program, LHFA program staff monitors owner-occupied dwellings which have been rehabilitated by Local Governmental Units participating in the program. Compliance monitoring includes routine in-house evaluation and on-site visits to review homeowner eligibility, financial management, fair housing, anti-displacement and relocation, Section 504, environmental clearance requirements, lead-based paint, procurement, record keeping, citizen participation and housing quality standards. Technical assistance is provided in areas of non-compliance and corrective action directed through implementation of time-limited action plans.

More specific descriptions of the monitoring provided by each of the four programs is discussed in the Other Actions - Monitoring section of the FY 2000 Action Plan.

# FY 2000 Annual Action Plan

# RESOURCES

## FEDERAL RESOURCES

The FY 2000 funding allocations for each program are: Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program - $36,953,000, HOME Investment Partnerships Program - $14,625,000, Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program - $1,583,000, and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Program - $763,000. (The FY 2000 HOPWA allocation was reduced by approximately $350,000. This amount will be awarded to Region II – Baton Rouge EMSA which has been designated as a new HOPWA formula grantee.) A description follows of these funds and other federal funding sources that are expected to be available to address the State's priority needs and specific objectives identified in this document. In summary, the primary needs of the State which are addressed by these four programs are infrastructure, economic development, and housing. The majority of the CDBG funds address infrastructure needs; however, CDBG funds are also allocated to address housing, economic development and other community development needs. The main thrust of the other three programs is in the area of housing.

<u>Infrastructure</u>

The State will receive approximately $37 million (subject to federal allocation) for use under the FY 2000 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program. As was previously stated and as illustrated in Figure 3 on page 159, the majority of these funds (approximately $27 million including the Demonstrated Needs and LaSTEP set asides) will be used to address the infrastructure needs of the non-metropolitan areas of the State.

Other federal resources for infrastructure are somewhat limited. The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development provides a source of funding through three programs which are summarized as follows. Approximately $30 million will be available through these programs during the FY 2000 program year.

*Water and Waste Disposal Loan Program*

The purpose of this program is to develop water and waste disposal (including solid waste disposal and storm drainage) systems in rural areas and towns with a population not in excess of 10,000. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes, and corporations not operated for profit. Water and waste disposal loans made by banks and other eligible lenders are also guaranteed.

*Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program*

This program provides funds to reduce water and waste disposal costs to a reasonable level for rural users. Grants may not exceed seventy-five percent of eligible project costs. The same types of applicants are eligible as discussed under the loan program.

*Community Facilities Loan Program*

This program is used to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services in rural areas and towns with a population of 20,000 or less. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes, and cooperations not operated for profit. It also provides guarantees for community facility loans made by banks or other eligible lenders. Examples of community facilities include community health care, cultural and educational, energy transmission and distribution, fire, rescue, and public safety, public buildings and improvements, transportation, utilities, et cetera.

Economic Development

Another need of the State is in the area of economic development. As can be determined from Figure 3 on page 159, approximately $6 million of the FY 2000 LCDBG funds are allocated to address this need; those monies will be used to provide grants for infrastructure improvements associated with economic development projects. It is estimated that approximately $1 million in the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund may be used to supplement funding for economic development projects by providing loans to local governing bodies for the benefit of private companies who will be responsible for creating jobs and repaying the loan. (The Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund consists of program income received by the State from the payback of previously funded LCDBG economic development loans.)

A summary of other federal resources available to assist in the area of economic development follows.

The Small Business Administration under the Department of Commerce administers the SBA 504 Program which is available for qualified small businesses seeking fixed asset financing. This program provides, in partnership with a financial institution, low cost fixed financing in an amount not to exceed $750,000 or in designated rural areas, an amount not to exceed $1,000,000 or more than forty percent of the project's total cost, whichever is less.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has the Public Works and Development Facilities Program; the purpose of that program is to assist communities with the funding of public works and development facilities that contribute to the creation or retention of primarily private sector jobs and alleviation of unemployment and underemployment. Such assistance is designed to help communities achieve lasting improvement by stabilizing and diversifying local economies and by improving local living conditions and the economic development of the area. Alleviation of unemployment and underemployment among residents of the target area is a primary focus of this project. The federal allocation for FY 2000 for the five state region which includes Louisiana is expected to be $31,150,000; the amount which may be specifically allocated to Louisiana is not known at the time of preparation of this document.

The mission of the Rural Business - Cooperative Service of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development is to enhance the quality of life for all rural Americans by providing leadership in building competitive businesses and cooperatives that can prosper in the global marketplace. To meet business credit needs in underserved areas, the following three programs are usually leveraged with the resources of commercial, cooperative, or other private section lenders.

The Business and Industry (B&I) Guarantee Loan Program helps create jobs and stimulates rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses. This program guarantees up to 80 percent of a loan made by a commercial lender. Loan proceeds may be used for working capital, machinery and equipment, buildings and real estate and certain types of debt refinancing. The primary purpose is to create and maintain employment and improve the economic climate in rural communities. This is achieved by expanding the lending capability of private lenders in rural areas, helping them make and service quality loans that provide lasting community benefits. This program represents a true private-public partnership. Approximately $27 million will be available during the FY 2000 program year.

The Business and Industry (B&I) Direct Loan Program provides loans to public entities and private parties who cannot obtain credit from other sources. Loans to private parties can be made for improving, developing, or financing business and industry, creating jobs, and improving the economic and environmental climate in rural communities (including pollution abatement). This type of assistance is available in rural areas (this includes all areas other than cities of more than 50,000 people and their immediately adjacent urban or urbanizing areas). Approximately $1 million will be available during the FY 2000 program year.

Rural Business Enterprise Grants help public bodies, nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized Indian tribal groups finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises located in rural areas (this includes all areas other than cities of more than 50,000 people and their immediately adjacent urban or urbanizing areas). Grant funds can pay for the acquisition and development of land and the construction of buildings, plants, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utility and service extensions, refinancing, and fees for professional services. Grant funds can also pay for technical assistance and related training, startup costs and working capital, financial assistance to a third party, production of television programs targeted for rural residents, and for rural distance learning networks. Approximately $1.3 million will be available for Louisiana during the FY 2000 program year.

The Rural Electrification Administration has the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program which promotes rural economic development and/or job creation projects. That program is available for qualified borrowers that are using funds to create jobs in rural areas. Low cost funds can be used to construct facilities, financing operation, inventory, or working capital. The program will fund eighty percent of any one project or $400,000, whichever is less.

Housing

The State will allocate $2.4 million in FY 2000 LCDBG funds to address housing needs.

The estimated HOME allocation of $14,625,000 will be used during the FY 2000 program year to address the State's housing priorities. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit and Mortgage Revenue Bond Programs will also provide resources for acquisition, housing rehabilitation, reconstruction, and/or new construction activities.

The State of Louisiana's FY 2000 ESG allocation is anticipated to be $1,583,000. Of this allocation, after deducting the State's administrative share of $41,554, the remaining amount of $1,541,446 shall be distributed through grant awards to applicant units of general local government for use in eligible program activities.

Under HUD's 1999 national SuperNOFA competition for Continuum of Care - Homeless Assistance funding, seven localities in Louisiana received grant awards totaling $12,940,165 to support forty-six projects within the following regional continuum of care collaborative systems: Southwestern Louisiana (Region V), Northwest Louisiana (Region VII), Orleans/Jefferson Parishes (Regions I and X), Capitol Area Alliance – Baton Rouge (Region II), Northeast Louisiana (Region VIII), Northlake Coalition (Region IX), and Lafourche/Terrebonne/Assumption (Region III). Funds available through the HUD Continuum of Care SuperNOFA are awarded under any of three programs for use in creating community systems for combating homelessness. The HUD SuperNOFA federal funds granted to Louisiana recipients during recent years are generally being used for projects implemented over a multi-year time period.

Under HUD's 1998 national SuperNOFA competition for Continuum of Care - Homeless Assistance funding, eight localities in Louisiana received grant awards totaling $11,562,347 to support forty-two projects within the following continuum of care collaborative systems: Central Louisiana Coalition to Prevent Homelessness, Capitol Area Alliance for the Homeless, UNITY for the Homeless of New Orleans, Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes Continuum of Care, Acadiana Continuum of Care, Northeast Louisiana (Region VIII), the Homeless Coalition of Northwest Louisiana, and Northlake Continuum of Care Coalition, Region IX.

Under HUD's 1997 national SuperNOFA competition, eight localities in Louisiana received grant awards for a total of $12,370,187.

Under the 1996 HUD SuperNOFA competition three metropolitan localities in the State — East Baton Rouge Parish, New Orleans/Jefferson Parish, and Shreveport/Bossier — received $9,820,680 in total funding awards for fourteen Supportive Housing Program (SHP) projects.

Other federal sources for homeless assistance activities are the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Homeless Children and Youth Education Grant, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, and the HHS Program for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) for services to homeless persons with chronic mental illness.

In order to be eligible for a HOPWA entitlement grant, the State must have more than 1,500 cumulative cases of people living with AIDS in the areas of the State that are outside of the eligible metropolitan statistical area (EMSA) and have an approved Consolidated Plan. According to the Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program Surveillance Report for May 28, 1999, there were 11,473 cumulative cases of AIDS in Louisiana. The State of Louisiana Cumulative AIDS Cases excluding Region I (6,371) - the New Orleans EMSA totals 5,102. The Office of Public Health has been providing surveillance of AIDS cases since 1981. The State also has an approved Consolidated Plan.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Office of Public Health (OPH), HIV/AIDS Program (HAP) is applying for the $763,000 formula allocation for FY 2000 HOPWA funds and will serve as recipient of all non-competitive HOPWA funds for the State of Louisiana (this includes the entire state with the exception of Region 1 - New Orleans EMSA and Region II – Baton Rouge EMSA). The HIV Program Office will allocate the FY 2000 HOPWA funds to seven of the nine Department of Health and Hospitals Consortia Regions.

In addition to the State's HOPWA entitlement funds, other federal resources available for support of HOPWA related activities include funding from the Ryan White Title II Program of the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), HUD Section 811 Program, the HUD Shelter Plus Care Program (national competition), and the Title XIX Medicaid Program for nursing home care.

## OTHER RESOURCES

During the FY 2000 program year, resources from private and non-federal public sources will also be available to assist in addressing the State's infrastructure, economic development, and housing priorities and objectives. A description of these other resources is included herein.

### Infrastructure

The Governor's Office of Rural Development administers the Rural Development Fund which is used to fund public works projects to stimulate economic growth in eligible communities and parishes. Approximately $9 million will be awarded during the State's fiscal year ending June 30, 2000.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality administers the Municipal Facilities Revolving Loan Fund which provides financial assistance (below market rate loans) for the construction of projects to enhance and improve water quality in Louisiana. All of the revolving loans made to date have financial municipal wastewater treatment projects, although federal law requires consideration of other type of water quality projects if they address significant water quality problems and a willing and capable borrower exists. Louisiana's new Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund is implemented by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, and the Department of Environmental Quality. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance for the construction or upgrade of eligible public drinking water systems through loans or other forms of financial assistance. Approximately $37 million will be available through these two revolving loan funds.

Approximately $66 million will be available for infrastructure improvements through the Louisiana State Capital Outlay Program.

The Governor's Office of Rural Development works with the Department of Environmental Quality in the administration of the Hardship Grants Program. The purpose of that program is to provide financial assistance to small, rural communities for the construction of wastewater treatment projects that would qualify for a loan from the Municipal Facilities Revolving Loan Fund, but that would not be able to afford such a loan for the total cost of construction. Approximately $1 million is available under this program.

It is also anticipated that several of the public facilities projects funded under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program will involve the injection of local funds. In the past, local funds have been utilized for actual construction costs and the payment of engineering and administrative consulting services associated with program implementation.

## Economic Development

Under the LCDBG Program, a firm financial commitment for the private sector is required for the funding of an economic development project. For a loan or a grant, the private funds/public funds ratio must not be less than 1:1 for manufacturing firms with Standard Industrial Code classifications of 20-39. A private to public ratio for non-manufacturing firms must have a ratio of 2.5:1. For a grant to the local governing body for infrastructure improvements and/or for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a building and improvements for economic development, the private funds/public funds ratio for grant funds equal to or less than $500,000 must be 1:1 and for grant funds in excess of $500,000 must be 2:1. Infrastructure grants for non-manufacturing firms will require a private LCDBG funds ratio of at least 2.5:1.

The Governor's Office of Rural Development also provides grants to local governing bodies for the furtherance of economic development.

The Louisiana Department of Economic Development through the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) stimulates the flow of private capital, long-term loans, and other financial assistance for the financing of the development, expansion, and retention of small business concerns in Louisiana, as a means of providing high levels of employment, income growth, and expanded economic opportunities, especially to disadvantaged persons within distressed and rural areas. The Louisiana Small Business Loan Program is available for eligible small businesses. Loan proceeds may be used for the purchase of fixed assets including buildings, machinery and equipment, inventory, working capital and with restrictions, debt restructure.

The Loan and Loan Guaranty Program is available under the Louisiana Department of Agriculture. This program is available for an entity engaged in the marketing, processing, and/or further processing of Louisiana farm products. The program provides a loan or loan guaranty to a bank, not to exceed five years. The funds may be used to acquire, construct, furnish, equip, make necessary improvements or purchase any agricultural plant, operations capital, market development costs, and product inventories.

Housing

In July of 1998 a new program (Home Energy Loan Program - HELP) was announced which would allow Louisiana residents to get low interest loans for the purpose of making their homes more energy efficient. This program will involve approximately $14 million which will be available through the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. The approximately $14 million being set aside for the program is part of $160 million the State received in 1983 from a federal settlement with oil producers who overcharged customers; the producers violated federal price and distribution controls imposed during an Arab oil embargo. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will work with banks or other lending institutions to provide financing at two percent interest for up to $4,000 per loan for improvements to existing homes. The DNR financing arrangement would apply to only half of the total loan amount. Loans also are available for new home construction. There are no income criteria on either borrowing program. Program objectives are: (a) to encourage construction of highly energy efficient single family residences, (b) to allow energy efficiency upgrading of existing residences at the time of purchase or refinance, and (c) to provide incentives to homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements to their existing homes. By taking advantage of these low interest loans for energy efficient upgrades, the public will benefit through: 1. interest savings over the life of the improvement, 2. lowered utility bills, 3. increased resale value of their residences, and 4. decreased pollutant emissions.

Based on information provided by the Department of Natural Resources in May of 1999, each new home built or improved under HELP will save the homeowner over $600 annually in energy costs and at the same time reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7,300 pounds per year. The HELP program will offer the homebuilder and home buyer two options: a reduced interest rate on a portion of the house loan or a one-time cash payment. Both the amount eligible for low-interest financing and the amount of the one-time cash payment are determined by a Home Energy Rating that must be performed on all houses participating in the program. The eligible amount is called the energy efficiency premium and will vary from house to house, based on their relative level of energy efficiency. Under the first option, DNR will finance the energy efficiency premium portion of the house at two percent interest. The homeowner will then realize an interest and energy cost savings over the entire life of the home loan. On a typical house, option one of the HELP Program will result in an interest savings over the life of the loan ranging from $3,000 to $20,000. Depending on circumstances, this option can also reduce the required down payment and mortgage insurance premium. The second option is called the HELP Cash-at-Closing Option. Under this option the home buyer will actually receive cash from DNR at the loan closing. The cash payment will vary depending on the level of energy efficiency achieved. It can be used for any purpose, including helping to pay the down payment. On a typical home that meets the requirements for the HELP program, the cash at closing will be between $500 and $2,000.

Sources of funding in conjunction with the HOME Program may include investment by private lending institutions and both business and non-profit corporations along with available state and federal resources. Resources available from the Governor's Office of Women's Services and private nonprofit organizations should leverage additional resources to support the integration of supportive services. The State will support funding applications by any other entity which will assist in the delivery of housing and housing support services.

The LHFA's Affordable Rental HOME Program may be restructured to provide priority points to projects which complement neighborhood redevelopment efforts of local governmental units in the competitive allocation process. Special set-asides in the HOME/MRB Program may also be instituted to ensure an adequate supply of funds to finance home ownership in neighborhoods undergoing redevelopment. Moreover, in an effort to assure adequate resources for special needs groups in rural areas where there is a shortage of housing for special needs groups such as the homeless, elderly and handicapped as well as a lack of a critical mass of such special needs groups for an entire project, the LHFA may provide special bonus points in the competitive award of HOME Funds to projects which set aside buildings for such special needs groups.

HOME funds provide a maximum of fifty percent of the total development costs of rental projects leveraging funding available from commercial lending institutions and proceeds realized from the syndication of Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

Single family mortgage revenue bond funds will be used in conjunction with HOME resources to promote the increase of home ownership opportunities for low income persons and families targeted for assistance. The program is designed to provide low interest loans to qualifying persons and families who might not otherwise qualify for conventional private mortgages. Some HOME Program funds will be made available by the State to assist qualifying low income persons and families with down payments and closing costs to complement the State mortgage revenue bond resources.

By making down payment and closing cost assistance available to first time, low income home buyers through HOME Program funds, it is anticipated that this income group will utilize mortgage resources available from private lending institutions as well as State supported single family mortgage revenue bond resources. In connection with the administration of the HOME Program, LHFA will widely advertise the home buyer assistance available through the HOME Program and the coupling of that assistance with private mortgage resources and the single family home mortgage program provided by the State.

HOME funding will be made available to Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to provide up to eighty-five percent of the financing for the construction or acquisition/ rehabilitation of affordable housing for purchase by low income first time home buyers. A pool of mortgage revenue bond proceeds and HOME funds will be set aside to assure that low income families have access to affordable long term rates.

HOME funds will also be made available on a competitive basis to local governmental units to provide grant funding for the rehabilitation of substandard housing owned and occupied by eligible very low income and/or elderly/handicapped individuals or families.

The State will fulfill the ESGP requirement of a matching contribution equal to its ESG program funds by requiring recipients to secure matching funds in an amount at least equal to their ESGP grant amounts. With respect to the first $100,000 of the State's ESG allocation which is exempt from matching funds requirements, the State DSS will pass on this benefit to the recipient local government(s), and/or subrecipient(s), which shall be determined by DSS to have the least capability to provide the required matching funds based on information submitted in grant applications or obtained from subsequent program evaluations. For those grant amounts which remain subject to matching funds requirements, the value of donated materials and buildings, voluntary activities and other in-kind contributions may be included with "hard cash" amounts in the calculation of matching funds. In certain rare situations, a local government grantee which is sponsoring a shelter project has complied with this requirement by providing the matching funds itself. The usual method, however, has been through provision by nonprofit project sponsors.

The State executes ESG agreements with local governments which generally subgrant funds to nonprofit organizations providing shelter and services to homeless people. Each grantee/ subgrantee is required to provide matching contributions funds equal to the amount of ESG funds that are awarded. This requirement is stipulated in all ESGP grant agreements. Each ESGP application and/or project proposal must specify sources and amounts of matching funds. In previous grants, the matching funds provided by grantees and subgrantees have exceeded the amount required by the grants.

From descriptions contained in FY 1999 ESG applications, common sources of matching funds provided by recipient agencies are: United Way allotments, private foundation grants, monies contributed by religious organizations and ministerial alliances, staff salaries paid from private sources, volunteered time valued at $5/hour, donated food and clothing, donated building space made available for use as shelter facilities (fair market lease valuation), building materials and other in kind donations by individuals and businesses, donated furnishings, equipment items (donated or made available for use without charge), proceeds from charitable fundraising events, CSBG and CDBG funding, local government general funds, Louisiana Children's Trust Fund, and state general fund allotments and local marriage license fee monies dedicated for local family violence programs.

The State DSS will provide in-kind support in its administration of the Emergency Shelter Grants Program for those costs not met through the state's share of ESGP administrative monies, including costs incurred for program and financial management, contract monitoring, single audit reviews and follow up, coordination with other programs, program planning, state point of contact for homeless issues, maintaining a state database of facilities and services to assist homeless persons, and other program administrative functions and related coordinative activities.

*State Funding for Homeless Shelters Servicing Family Violence Victims*

Important sources of non-federal funding for homeless shelter programs in Louisiana are state appropriated (general fund) monies as well as a portion of marriage license fee revenues and civil court fees dedicated for family violence programs. For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2000 (July, 1999 - June, 2000), the state general funds appropriation for family violence programs is $1,698,306, of which eighty percent ($1,358,644) is used for emergency shelter expenses. Some of the marriage license fee monies received by local family violence programs (SFY 2000 anticipated amount $435,000) is also used for shelter costs. An additional $90,000 in local funds derived from special civil court fees levied in domestic proceedings will be used for family violence programs in the parishes of Caddo, Calcasieu, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Orleans, and Sabine.

*Publicly Owned Property Used for Homeless Shelter Facilities*

Another type of non-federal resource benefitting homeless shelter projects is the in-kind value of publicly owned buildings made available without charge as shelter facilities, such as parish owned buildings in Terrebonne and Jefferson Parishes, a state owned building in Pineville, and city owned property in Kenner.

*Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Leased Property Used to House Homeless Persons*

Effective 1990, the State Constitution was amended to provide that property leased to a nonprofit corporation for use solely as housing for homeless persons, at a compensation rate not to exceed $1 per year for a lease term of at least five years, shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes. It is believed that certain nonprofit agencies in Louisiana have been able to take advantage of this provision in providing housing for homeless persons.

Non-federal resources for residential and housing services for persons with HIV/AIDS include private AIDS residential facilities statewide, local hospital corporations affiliates, faith-based community organizations, United Way funding and local nonprofit agency resources, and private fundraising by AIDS advocacy coalitions and groups. Another possible source of AIDS assistance funding derives from major business sponsors and national philanthropies: AETNA, GAP, Prudential, the Equitable, the Rockefeller Foundation, etc.

# ACTIVITIES

The following information presents an overview of the State's proposed method for distributing FY 2000 funds under the four programs with corresponding information as to how the proposed distribution of funds will address the priority needs and objectives. More detailed information is provided in the section of this document entitled "Action Plan: One Year Use of Funds."

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

In the Consolidated Plan it was stated that the top needs of the State in order of priority were public facilities (infrastructure) improvements, economic development, housing, planning, and social services. Those needs and their ranking were determined from a February, 1999, survey of the local governing bodies which were eligible for funding under the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program. The results of that survey and other comments received were used to determine the funding categories for the FY 2000 and FY 2001 LCDBG Programs. (Beginning with the FY 1986 program, the State adopted the use of a two year funding cycle for housing and public facilities applications. Therefore, a survey of this type is conducted every two years to assist in the determination of the current needs of the local governing bodies and to reassess the program priorities.)

In an effort to both ensure that the State's goals and objectives are met and the LCDBG Program is responsive to the current needs of the local governing bodies, the Office of Community Development solicited comments and suggestions prior to designing its FY 2000 - FY 2001 programs. In addition to the public hearing process and acceptance of comments described in the "Citizen Participation" and "Comments Received" sections of this action plan, in February of 1999 the Office of Community Development mailed a questionnaire to the three hundred and forty local governments eligible under the LCDBG Program. The purpose of that survey was to determine what the local governing bodies perceived as being the top needs of their jurisdictions. The results of that survey pertaining to the identified needs by program category are presented in Table 11 on page 75 of this plan.

The Office of Community Development designed its FY 2000 and FY 2001 LCDBG Programs in accordance with the local needs identified in the survey; refer to Figure 3 on page 159 which is in the section entitled "Action Plan: One Year Use of Funds - Community Development Block Grant Program." As is illustrated in that figure, the majority of the State's LCDBG funds will be allocated to public facilities (including demonstrated needs); funds will also be allocated for economic development and housing.

Due to the wide range of public facilities activities which are eligible for funding, a question was included on the survey which asked each local governing body to identify its specific priorities. The resulting rankings are also identified in Table 12 on page 76 of this document. While the individual ranking among the top five public facilities activities resulting from the 1999 survey and previously conducted surveys varied somewhat, street improvements, sewerage system improvements (collection and treatment), drainage projects, and water system improvements (potable and fire protection) were the top priorities. For comparative purposes with the survey conducted in 1997: streets remained as the top public facilities need and sewer collection systems remained as the second public facilities need;

drainage replaced sewer treatment as the third priority; potable water rose from fifth place to fourth place; sewer treatment projects moved from third place to fifth place, and; water for fire protection remained in sixth place. To address the drainage need, the amount of LCDBG funds which could be used for drainage in conjunction with street projects was increased from ten percent to twenty-five percent beginning with the FY 1998 LCDBG Program; that percentage will be continued into the FY 2000 and FY 2001 program years. Aside from drainage, streets and the four types of water and sewer projects remained as the top five public facilities activities.

Neighborhood facilities or multi-purpose community centers ranked as a distant seventh public facilities activity. The Office of Community Development initially set-aside monies for multi-purpose community centers under the FY 1998 and FY 1999 LCDBG program years. Only one application requesting funds for a multi-purpose community center was received; that application was funded under the FY 1998 LCDBG Program year. Since there were no applications for multi-purpose community centers to consider under the FY 1999 LCDBG program year, ultimately no monies were set-aside for multi-purpose community centers under that program year.

The percentage distribution of funds among the top five public facilities (subcategories) will be based upon the number/ percentage of applications received and the amount requested for each priority. Half of the funds will be distributed based on the percentage of applications received in each subcategory and half on the basis of amount of funds requested in each subcategory. This allocation is also referenced in Figure 3 on page 159 of this document.

The selection and rating systems for the review of all of the LCDBG applications received were designed to insure that the national objectives and goals of the State will be met. A detailed description of the rating systems for each type of application is provided in the Community Development Block Grant Program portion of the section entitled "Action Plan: One Year Use of Funds."

**HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM**

In keeping with its Mission Statement to provide a decent, safe, suitable and affordable home for every Louisianian, the LHFA allocates HOME Funds over a range of discreet single family and multifamily programs to achieve specific goals and objectives. The following LHFA Programs will be funded with HOME Funds to achieve the stated objectives.

Single Family Programs

<u>HOME/MRB Program</u>: HOME funds in amounts necessary to limit borrower contributions to the greater of 3 percent of a home's purchase price or $1500 will be combined with mortgage revenue bond proceeds to provide thirty year affordable mortgage financing for approximately one hundred and fifty low-income first time home buyers.

<u>CHDO Homeownership Program</u>: HOME Funds will be made available to CHDOs to construct approximately seventy-five single family homes in rural areas for low-income households in under served rural areas of the State.

SHARE Program: HOME Funds will be made available under the Substandard Housing Assistance For Rural Economics pursuant to which the LHFA will provide grant funds through local governmental units to rehabilitate substandard housing owned by low-income households.

Multifamily Programs

HOME Affordable Rental Housing Program: HOME Funds will be made available on a competitive basis to provide gap financing for the construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing.

The LHFA routinely conducts or sponsors housing seminars and workshops on affordable housing initiatives which may be accessed by developers, lenders, non-profit organizations and local governmental units.

## EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM

In accordance with program policies, the State Department of Social Services (DSS) will distribute ESGP funds to units of general local government which may make all or part of grant amounts available to private nonprofit organizations for use in eligible activities. Funding available under the Emergency Shelter Grants Program is dedicated for the rehabilitation, renovation or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless, and for payment of certain operating costs and social services expenses in connection with emergency shelter for the homeless. The program also allows use of funding in homeless prevention activities as an adjunct to other eligible activities. DSS shall define eligible applicants as units of general local government for all parish jurisdictions and those municipal or city governmental units for jurisdictions with a minimum population of 10,000 according to recent census figures. Application packages, including grant application requirements and deadline for submittal, shall be issued by mail to the chief elected official of each eligible unit of general local government.

The State DSS intends to continue use of a geographic allocation formula (described in a subsequent section) in the distribution of the State's ESG funding to ensure that each region of the State is allotted a specified minimum of State ESG grant assistance for eligible ESGP projects. Regional allocations for the State's 2000 ESG Program will be formulated based on factors for low income populations in the parishes of each region according to U.S. Census Bureau data. Within each region, grant distribution shall be conducted through a competitive grant award process.

Proposals accepted for review will be rated on a comparative, project specific, basis. Proposal evaluation will be based on information provided in grant applications. Recipients of grant amounts will be determined in accordance with the following selection criteria:

- Nature and extent of unmet needs in the applicant's jurisdiction as demonstrated by data supplied by applicant including sources of information (studies done, inventory of existing shelters, their use and capacity, estimates by applicant and homeless providers of additional shelter beds needed, reliable surrogates for homeless need including local unemployment data, welfare statistics, and unique local circumstances) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 40 points

- The extent to which proposed activities will address needs for housing and supportive services and/or complete the development of a comprehensive system of services which will provide a continuum of care to assist homeless persons to achieve independent living . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 30 points

- The ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities promptly . . . . . . . . .15 points

- Coordination of the proposed project(s) with available community resources, so as to be able to match the needs of homeless persons with appropriate supportive services and assistance . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .15 points

Elements of the above criteria include: methodology and time frame to implement proposed activities, specificity of proposed activities and reasonableness of cost estimates, experience of project sponsor(s) in provision of services for homeless persons or in similar service activities, fiscal accountability and financial responsibility of project sponsor(s), and capability to provide required matching funds (when applicable). For previous recipients of State grant amounts, expenditure patterns will be reviewed to evaluate such applicants' ability to implement and complete program activities on a timely basis. An applicant may be disqualified from receiving an award if evaluation of prior expenditure patterns indicates inability to utilize program assistance on a timely basis.

Funding awards shall be based on evaluation and ranking of individual project proposals. DSS reserves the right to negotiate the final grant amounts and local match with all applicants to ensure judicious use of these funds.

DSS proposes to use five percent of the State's Fiscal Year 2000 ESGP allocation for administrative purposes. This administrative allowance will be shared with grantee local governments which may elect to use a 2.5 percent share of ESGP funding for local government grant administration.

<u>How Proposed ESG Funds Distribution Will Address Priority Needs and Specific Objectives Described in the State Consolidated Plan</u>

The following are the priorities for use of available resources to address homeless needs as described in the Consolidated Plan for FY 2000 - FY 2004.

**Priority:** **To give preference in awarding homeless assistance funds and in endorsing grant proposals to those proposed activities and projects which are designed within the context of a regional or community based "Continuum of Care" collaborative process and which are integral to a local "Continuum of Care" resource system.**

Objective: To provide assistance for projects which are 1) integral components of a "continuum of care" system developed through a collaborative, community based strategic planning process and 2) are proposing activities to maintain, enhance or strengthen the capacity of the local "continuum of care" system through implementation of ESGP eligible activities in connection with emergency shelter of homeless persons [i.e. facility rehabilitation, the provision of essential services related to emergency shelter, shelter operational costs, and homeless prevention activities].

*Methodology:* This priority for projects which are part of a locally developed Continuum of Care system will be emphasized in the informational materials contained in the application package for the FY 2000 Louisiana Emergency Shelter Grants Program. The review and rating of ESGP applications shall also reflect this emphasis. In the evaluation of applications for ESG grant amounts, up to thirty points will be awarded for each project's Continuum of Care participation. A proposed project which does not have evidence of participation in its local continuum of care collaborative process and/or its intended linkage or integration in the local continuum of care resource system will not be eligible for the thirty points allotted under this continuum of care criterion.

Performance Indicator: Most of the shelter projects assisted by State ESGP funds have participated in the local Continuum of Care collaborative planning process and these projects are linked and integrated as emergency shelter resource components within the local continuum of care system.

**Priority:** **Continued use of regional allocation formula in competitive award of State ESGP funding amounts**.

During the initial years of the State ESG Program, preference was given to assisting the establishment of new shelter facilities and providing continuation funding to those shelter projects which received start-up aid through use of State ESG grant amounts. Effective FFY 92, DSS/OCS began implementation of a geographic allocation formula in the distribution of ESG funding to ensure that each region of the State was allotted a specified minimum of State ESG grant assistance for eligible ESGP projects. This method of regional allocation amounts is similar to the *pro rata need amounts* formulated by HUD for its Homeless Assistance SuperNOFA funding. Through the specification of a dollar figure of anticipated ESGP funding allotted for each region, the local homeless resource agencies are better able to collaboratively plan for and design appropriate ESGP eligible activities for strategic integration and implementation within its local continuum of care system.

*Objectives, Methodology, Performance Indicator:* same as for previous "Continuum of Care" priority.

**Priority:** **To increase the availability of longer term shelter and transitional housing projects that incorporate treatment components and special supportive services for homeless persons with addictive disorders and/or mental illness, and/or projects incorporating life skills training and independent living components designed for the special needs of homeless families with children.**

Data from regional continuum of care collaboratives, homeless shelters and transitional housing providers, as well as national studies has documented the high prevalence of addictive disorders, mental illness, dually diagnosed or co-occurring disorders, and other special needs among the homeless population. Because of the special vulnerability of children to the adverse conditions of homelessness, a continuing priority is given to the development of additional residential beds and supportive service slots for homeless families with children.

Objective: To provide grant assistance for 1) longer term shelter [over forty-five days] or transitional shelter projects that incorporate treatment components and special supportive services for homeless persons with addictive disorders and/or mental illness, or for 2) longer term shelter and transitional shelter projects incorporating life skills training and independent living components designed for the special needs of homeless families with children, in order to maintain and/or expand capacity of such facilities within continuum of care resource systems throughout Louisiana.

*Methodology:* The above priority will be specified in the informational materials contained in the application package for the FY 2000 Louisiana Emergency Shelter Grants Program. In the evaluation of applications for ESG grant amounts, up to six preference points shall be awarded for 1) a project which incorporates treatment components and special supportive services for homeless persons with addictive disorders and/or mental illness, or 2) a project which incorporates life skills training and independent living components designed for the special needs of homeless families with children.

Performance Indicator: Of the annual unduplicated number (14,213) of persons sheltered by ESGP assisted facilities during calendar year 1998, 69 percent (9,823) were adults, 19 percent (2,649) were youth and children ages 5 - 17 years, and 12 percent (1,741) were children under age 5. Within the general sheltered population (aggregate unduplicated count: n = 32,347) for the calendar year 1998, the proportions were adults – 81 percent: youth and children five years of age or older - 11 percent: and children under age five - 8 percent. Special needs subpopulations, as estimated by shelter operators for the night of September 28, 1999, were in the following estimated proportions of this entire point in time sample (n = 2,573): Severely Mentally Ill - 10.3 percent; Substance Abusers - 41.43 percent; Dually Diagnosed [Severely Mentally Ill/Substance Abuser] – 6 percent; AIDS/HIV - 5.3 percent; and physically disabled – 5 percent.

Since the inception of the State ESG Program in 1987, program funds have been used for the establishment of new emergency and transitional shelter facilities, many of which serve family groups, in Abbeville, Alexandria, DeRidder, Franklin, Gonzales, Hammond, Houma, Lafayette, Mansfield, Many, Monroe, New Iberia, Opelousas, Pineville, Ruston, and Slidell. ESG assistance, in combination with other sources, has also provided the means for shelters to extend the period of stay permitted, to establish transitional housing capability to meet longer term shelter needs, or to institute new supportive service components for particular special needs groups.

## HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM

Unlike other populations with special housing needs, the housing needs of people with AIDS change as the disease progresses. Thus, throughout the progression of the disease, the ability to find affordable housing and to remain in one's home is a constant stress for persons who are HIV infected. The number one priority for the State in the use of allocated HOPWA funding is providing residential housing for persons with AIDS, and secondly providing clients with short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance payments. As health diminishes, persons living with HIV/AIDS experience significant need for ancillary and supportive services.

The use of HOPWA funds for eligible activities will address those priority needs through the following summarized distribution method:

HOPWA Funding Projections for FY 2000

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Funding | $763,000 |
| Administrative Costs | 22,890 |
| | $740,110 |
| | |
| Residential Facilities | $370,055 (50%) |
| Rental Assistance | $370,055 (50%) |

The activities eligible for funding assistance are listed in the section entitled "Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities." More detailed information regarding the distribution of these funds is provided in the section entitled "Geographic Distribution."

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The following presents a description of the geographic areas of the State in which assistance will be directed during the FY 2000 Program year.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Eligible applicants under the LCDBG Program are those units of general local government in non-entitlement areas; non-entitlement areas are municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 and parishes with an unincorporated population of less than 200,000. The following units of local government are not eligible: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bossier City, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, Jefferson Parish (including Grand Isle, Gretna, Harahan, Jean Lafitte, and Westwego), Kenner, Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport, Slidell, and Thibodaux.

The LCDBG funds are awarded on a competitive basis; therefore, the ultimate geographic distribution of FY 2000 funds cannot be predicted.

### HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Home funds are made available on a statewide competitive basis for non-entitlement areas. The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) does not target any specific area of the State in connection with its investment plan for providing an increased supply of accessible safe and dignified least restrictive living opportunities, with integrated support services, for needy households and persons with special needs such as low income elderly and physically or mentally challenged persons.

All construction, renovation and rehabilitation activities engaged in by LHFA for very low income and low income households through the use of the HOME Program funds will be geographically disbursed throughout the State, with special focus given to rural areas. Awards of taxable and tax exempt bond financing of multifamily projects and allocations of Low Income Housing Tax Credits will be disbursed on a competitive basis within each of the eight planning districts throughout the State as equitably as possible.

Activities to increase first time home ownership opportunities with down payment and closing cost assistance through HOME will be promoted statewide in metropolitan and non metropolitan areas. The single family mortgage revenue program is administered through the involvement of financial institutions which are accessible statewide. LHFA will seek to expand the number of participating financial institutions in order to increase the number of branch locations accepting mortgage applications throughout the State.

**EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM**

ESGP Geographic Distribution by Poverty Factors for Regional Funding Pools

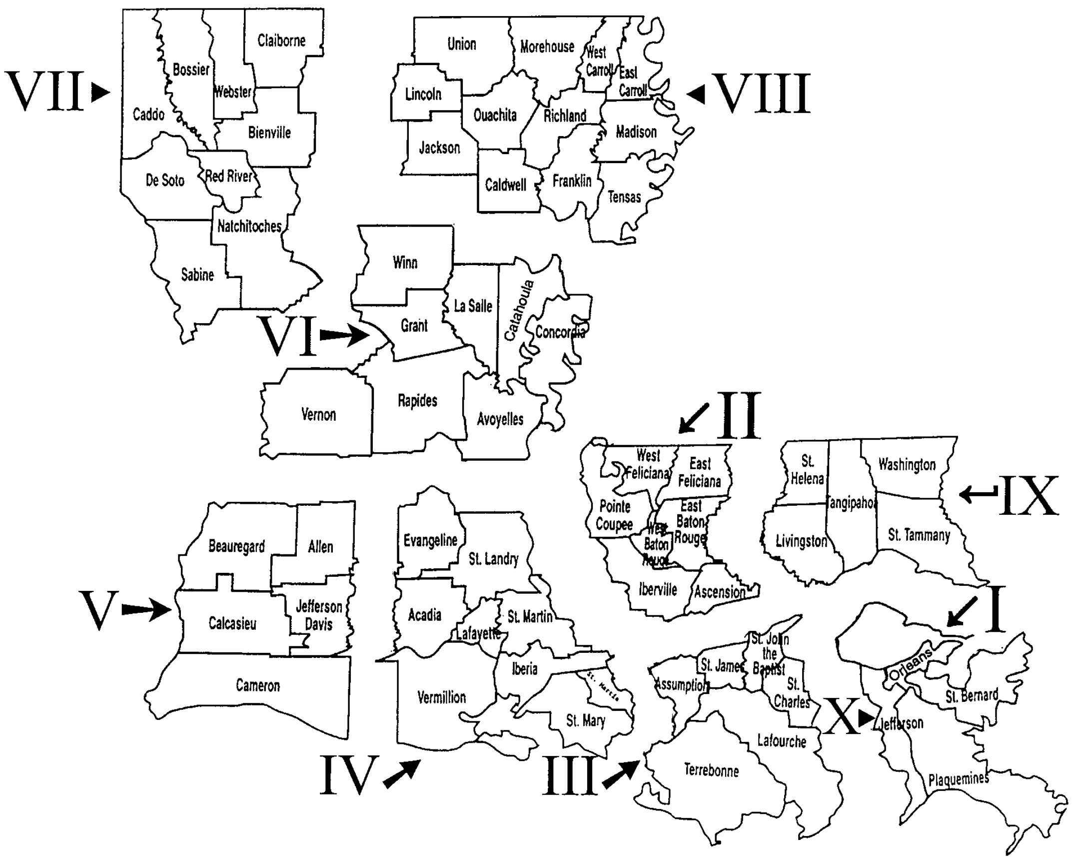
Beginning with its 1992 ESG Program, the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) has been utilizing a geographic allocation formula in the distribution of the State's ESG funding. DSS proposes to continue the use of a geographic allocation formula in the distribution of ESG funding to ensure that each region of the State is allotted a specified minimum of State ESG grant assistance for eligible ESGP projects. Based on national and state studies linking homelessness to conditions of poverty, regional ESG allocations are formulated based on factors for poverty (very low income) populations in the parishes of each region according to U.S. Census Bureau data. [Refer to the State map (Figure 1) which indicates boundaries and inclusive parishes for the ten State regions utilized by the ESG Program.] Within each region, grant distribution shall be conducted through a competitive grant award process previously described.

The following chart lists the allocation factors and amounts for each region for the FY 2000 State ESG Program:

| | Allocation Factor | Allocation |
|---|---|---|
| FY 2000 ESGP Grant Amount for Distribution: $1,541,446 | | |
| Region I New Orleans | .1572303 | $ 242,362 |
| Region II | .1120504 | 172,270 |
| Region III | .0698830 | 107,721 |
| Region IV | .1522066 | 234,618 |
| Region V | .0531705 | 81,959 |
| Region VI | .0764176 | 117,794 |
| Region VII | .1248105 | 192,389 |
| Region VIII | .0985996 | 151,986 |
| Region IX | .0746534 | 115,074 |
| Region X | .0809781 | 124,823 |
| | | 1,541,446 |
| State Administration | | 41,554 |
| FY 2000 State ESGP Allotment | | $ 1,583,000 |

Regional funding amounts for which applications are not received shall be subject to statewide competitive award to applicants from other regions and/or shall be reallocated among other regions in accordance with formulations consistent with the above factors.

# STATE REGIONS




Region I (1)
Orleans

Region II (2)
Ascension
E. Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
W. Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region III (3)
Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
Terrebonne

Region IV (4)
Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
St. Mary
Vermilion

Region V (5)
Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jeff. Davis

Region VI (6)
Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
Lasalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Reg. VII (7)
Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
Desoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Reg. VIII (8)
Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region IX (9)
Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

Region X (10)
Jefferson
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Grant awards shall be for a minimum of $10,000. Applicable grant maximums are as follows:

- Individual grant awards to applicant jurisdictions of less than 49,000 population shall not exceed $50,000.

- For a jurisdiction of over 49,000 population, the maximum grant award shall not exceed the ESGP allocation for that jurisdiction's respective region.

Grant specifications, minimum and maximum awards may be changed at DSS's discretion in consideration of individual applicant's needs, total program funding requests, and available funding. DSS reserves the right to negotiate the final grant amounts, component projects, and local match with all applicants to ensure judicious use of program funds. Program applications must meet State ESGP requirements and must demonstrate the means to assure compliance if the proposal is selected for funding. If, in the determination of DSS, an application fails to meet program purposes and standards, even if such application is the only eligible proposal submitted from a region or subregion, such application may be rejected *in toto*, or the proposed project(s) may be subject to alterations as deemed necessary by DSS to meet appropriate program standards.

ESGP Geographic Distribution by Locality

Since the ESG distribution method involves a competitive process for amounts apportioned into regional allocation pools (formulated according to poverty prevalence data), the ultimate geographic awards by locality (parish and/or city) cannot be predicted. (A table listing all local governmental units which are eligible to apply for ESGP funds is included on page 219 in the section entitled "Action Plan: One Year Use of Funds - Emergency Shelter Grants Program.")

ESG Program Recipients - Minority Composition

With respect to minority concentration among homeless persons served by ESGP assisted facilities, the following reflects the racial/ethnic composition of shelter guests on an average night as documented in recent ESG performance reports:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| African-American | 55.30% | Asian | .26% |
| White | 42.09% | Native American | .37% |
| Hispanic | 1.845% | Multi-Racial Unknown | .14% |

The racial/ethnic makeup of homeless shelter clientele mirrors to some degree the minority composition of the State's poverty population.

## HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM

The HIV AIDS Program has solicited input from the statewide Regional Consortiums, AIDS services/community based organizations, residential facilities and people living with AIDS regarding the allocation of the 2000 HOPWA funds. See the map and list on pages 124 and 125 for the Department of Health and Hospitals Administrative Regions. The parishes in the regions utilized by

TABLE 24

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
## Administrative Regions

**REGION I**

Orleans
St. Bernard
Plaquemines
Jefferson

**REGION II**

Iberville
Ascension
Pointe Coupee
East Feliciana
East Baton Rouge
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

**REGION III**

Lafourche
Assumption
Terrebonne
St. John the Baptist
St. Mary
St. James
St. Charles

**REGION IV**

Iberia
Acadia
Lafayette
Evangeline
Vermilion
St. Martin
St. Landry

**REGION V**

Allen
Cameron
Calcasieu
Beauregard
Jefferson Davis

**REGION VI**

Winn
Grant
Vernon
LaSalle
Rapides
Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia

**REGION VII**

Caddo
Desoto
Sabine
Webster
Bossier
Red River
Claiborne
Bienville
Natchitoches

**REGION VIII**

Union
Tensas
Madison
Lincoln
Jackson
Franklin
Caldwell
Richland
Quachita
Morehouse
East Carroll
West Carroll

**REGION IX**

St. Helena
Washington
Tangipahoa
Livingston
St. Tammany

the HOPWA Program differ somewhat from the regions utilized by the Emergency Shelter Grants Program. It was decided that the six HIV/AIDS residential facilities in seven different regions of the State will be allocated approximately fifty percent of the HOPWA funds. These HOPWA funds will be allocated through a competitive Louisiana HIV/AIDS Residential Facilities Solicitation of Application process. These funds are for new construction, renovation, rehabilitation, acquisition, conversion, lease and repairs of facilities or purchase of capital equipment. Seven residential facilities are currently in operation around the State. Region III has successfully acquired four pre-existing buildings to renovate and operate as South Louisiana Human Resources which will include office space, a seven bed residential facility and a clothing and food pantry. Region IX is the only region that does not have a residential facility. Table 25 provides a list of Louisiana HIV/AIDS Residential Facilities by region.

To ensure the efficient use of both HOPWA and Ryan White Title II funds, the remaining fifty percent of HOPWA funds will be awarded through a Request for Proposal (RFP) through the Ryan White Title II Regional Consortia (this includes the entire state excluding Region I - the New Orleans EMSA and Region II – Baton Rouge EMSA).

Since the State's distribution method for its HOPWA entitlement funds involves competitive processes, the ultimate geographic awards by locality (parish and/or city) cannot be predicted at this time.

TABLE 25

Louisiana HIV/AIDS Residential Facilities
(excluding Region I - New Orleans EMSA and Region II – Baton Rouge EMSA)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Region III | Susan Arcement, Executive Director<br>SOUTH LOUISIANA HUMAN RESOURCES, INC.*<br>106 Exchange Alley<br>Houma, LA 70360 | (504) 879-3768 |
| Region IV | Julie A. Granger, Manager<br>ST. LUKE'S<br>P. O. Box 4027<br>Lafayette, LA 70502-4027 | (318) 289-2905 |
| Region V | Chris Stewart<br>NEPENTHE HOUSE<br>P. O. Box 3052<br>Lake Charles, LA 70602 | (318) 439-3061 |
| Region VI | Jim Gallagher, Executive Director<br>MAISON DE COEUR<br>P. O. Box 5168<br>Alexandria, LA 71307-5168 | (318) 443-9223 |
| Region VII | Joann Czerwinski, Manager<br>MERCY CENTER<br>P. O. Box 832<br>Shreveport, LA 71162 | (318) 221-8219 |
| Region VIII | Linda Holyfield<br>THE FRANCISCAN HOUSE<br>P. O. Box 1901<br>Monroe, LA 71210 | (318) 322-3635 |
| Region IX | No residential facility at this time. | |

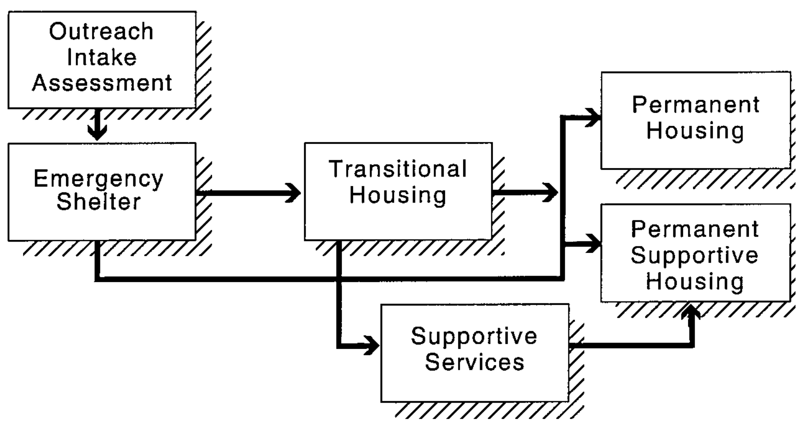
*This residential facility has been recently acquired and is currently under development.

## HOMELESS AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITIES

### HOMELESS NEEDS ANALYSIS - CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAMS

*Priority Home, The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness* issued in March, 1994, fostered the concept of a comprehensive system of services and housing options, called a "continuum of care," to help homeless individuals and families in local communities reach independence. This system and philosophy strives to fulfill these requirements with three fundamental components: emergency shelter, transitional housing with social services, and permanent housing. The following diagram illustrates the components of the Continuum of Care System.

*Continuum of Care*




This Continuum of Care approach envisions comprehensive strategic planning at the community level to inventory existing resources and to identify gaps or deficiencies for development of the continuum of care for homeless persons in the local area. Activities targeted to eliminate such gaps would be the primary objectives to which available resources to address homelessness and housing needs would be directed.

Information derived from annual State Homeless Needs Assessments definitely substantiates the need in the State for program assistance under all housing and supportive service options available under HUD homeless assistance funding, i.e., emergency shelter, supportive and transitional housing, permanent housing for the handicapped homeless, Shelter Plus Care, supplemental assistance for facilities to assist the homeless, and single room occupancy housing.

Priorities for development of transitional, permanent and single room occupancy housing, and supplemental programs to assist homeless persons are preeminent for the major urban regions in the State. However, non-urban areas are also deficient in these resources, and could benefit from programs which serve parish and/or multi-parish areas and involve strong supportive service components and elements of broad-based community participation in developing a continuum of care system.

Homeless individuals and families often require numerous and varied support services to achieve independent living, including remedial education, job search and job training, alcohol and drug rehabilitation services, case management, transportation, and day care services. Support services available for homeless persons may be limited in scope, accessibility, and/or capability of programs to accommodate special needs. Shelter facilities in Louisiana routinely offer meals and bathing facilities. Most provide information and referral services or counseling of some kind. Other types of support services are available through specialized programs at certain shelters (e.g., rehabilitation services for recovering substance abusers). Only a small number of shelter programs serving families with children are able to offer or arrange day care services. Transportation and case management services for shelter recipients are not available at all facilities. Throughout the State, the need to develop additional and expanded support services for shelter recipients is strongly indicated. HUD homeless assistance funding constitutes a direct and/or indirect resource for the development of additional supportive services.

The following populations are deemed to be at high risk of becoming homeless:

- The very low income population, including recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Low Income individuals involved in substance abuse
- Recently released ex-prisoners
- Deinstitutionalized mentally disabled persons
- Victims of family violence

A strategy to address the needs of the homeless and the at risk population, and to recognize the special needs of the various types of homeless individuals, must take into account the primary role of community-based charitable organizations and voluntary programs, alone or in partnership with local governments and public agencies, in establishing and supporting basic facilities and services for the homeless. Central to the strategy are the following elements:

1) the gathering of information on homelessness in the State and assessing the needs of homeless persons (ongoing process)
2) dissemination and sharing of this information to community-based groups and agencies concerned or involved in serving the homeless (ongoing process)
3) the evaluation of the needs of the homeless individual (performed as initial component of local continuum of care systems)
4) making appropriate referrals to available community resources ( component of local continuum of care systems)
5) the provision and coordination of all necessary services so that the homeless individual achieves maximum benefit from available facilities and services (objective of local continuum of care systems)
6) Encouraging the development of all necessary and appropriate services, service networks, and public and private resources (including real property, in-kind contributions, etc.) to support activities to assist homeless persons within Louisiana (local and state objective)

HUD homeless assistance funding under all McKinney program sources (ESGP formula funding and Continuum of Care SuperNOFA awards) will be used to complement and enhance available facilities and services through providing a source of funding support for the maintenance of existing facilities and services, and to allow facility expansion and/or the establishment of new facilities and services to help eliminate or lessen the gaps of unmet needs within local service delivery and homeless housing systems.

ESG Eligible Activities

Eligible activities under the Emergency Shelter Grants Program are set forth in 42 U.S.C. Part 11374 (Title IV B of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act) and HUD Program regulations at 24 CFR Part 576.21(a) [61 *Federal Register* page 51549; Oct. 2, 1996]. Only those activities specifically authorized under statutory provisions and Program regulations are eligible for use of ESGP funds. Other uses are ineligible.

As described under the Program law and regulations, ESGP grant amounts may be used for one or more of the following activities relating to emergency shelter for the homeless:

a. Renovation, major rehabilitation, or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless;

b. Provision of essential services to the homeless. Essential services include services concerned with employment, health, drug abuse, and education;

c. Payment for shelter maintenance, operation (including shelter administration), rent, repairs, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food and furnishings. An amount, not to exceed ten (10) percent of ESG funds, may be spent on staff costs of operations related to emergency shelter;

d. Developing and implementing homeless prevention activities.
Homeless prevention activities are those designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness, including (but not limited to):

   - short-term subsidies to defray rent and utility arrearages for families that have received eviction or utility termination notices;
   - security deposits or first month's rent to permit a homeless family to move into its own dwelling;
   - mediation programs for landlord-tenant disputes;
   - legal services programs for the representation of indigent tenants in eviction proceedings
   - payments to prevent foreclosure on a home and other innovative programs and activities designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness;

   If ESG funds for homeless prevention activities are to be used to assist families that have received eviction notices or notices of termination of utility services, certain prescribed conditions as specified under federal regulations and statutory provisions must be met (refer to the section entitled "Action Plan: One Year Use of Funds - Emergency Shelter Grants Program.")

e. Grant Administration

A local government grantee may at its option elect to use up to 2.5 percent of grant funding for costs directly related to administering grant assistance, or may allocate all grant amounts for eligible Program activities.

The State will obligate the FY 2000 ESG funds that it expects to receive by grant agreements with units of general local government to support the preceding activities relating to emergency and transitional shelter for homeless individuals and families.

The State will continue to use ESG funds as available for grants to units of general local government to assist shelters and homeless assistance providers with the costs of building rehabilitation, essential services, operations and homeless prevention. The assistance from the Emergency Shelter Grant funds enables nonprofit organizations to improve and preserve their physical property for continued, long-term shelter use, to relieve pressures on operating costs so that the shelters may direct other resources to services and other needs, and to maintain and expand services to shelter residents.

The shelters and homeless aid agencies that receive assistance from Emergency Shelter Grant funds strive to provide a continuum of care for the homeless persons and families who come to them. The shelters either provide or make referrals for employment services, counseling, literacy training, transportation to medical treatment and drug and alcohol counseling. Grant amounts shall also be used for homeless prevention activities services in accordance with program regulations to avert eviction, foreclosure, and/or utility disconnection, as well as to pay deposits and first month's rent to allow homeless persons to move to their own homes. Grant amounts have also been used to assist mediation programs for landlord-tenant disputes, and for the costs of legal services for the representation of indigent tenants in eviction proceedings.

Applicants under the 2000 Emergency Shelter Grants Program shall be required to incorporate into their proposal plans a description of the "coordination and linkage of the proposed project with available community resources" and "the extent to which the proposed activities will complete the development of a comprehensive system of services which will provide a continuum of care to assist homeless persons to achieve independent living."

Other Homeless Assistance/Special Needs Activities

The State, through the efforts of the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homeless, the State Contact for Homeless Issues, and staff of local offices and clinics, encourages, participates in, provides statistical information and technical assistance, and otherwise supports the development of competitive applications by local governments and nonprofit organizations under the HUD SuperNOFA Continuum of Care programs.

The State also assists rental rehabilitation and affordable housing programs designed to improve the availability, affordability and quality of housing in local communities with CDBG and HOME funds. The housing rehabilitation programs will alleviate some of the cost burdens in the special needs population. Improvements to owner-occupied housing will reduce the maintenance costs and the utility costs. With these housing costs reduced, the special needs populations will have an increased amount of disposable income to meet other needs.

State Contact for Homeless Issues

The ESG Program Manager within the Department of Social Services has served as the State Contact Person for Homeless Issues with responsibilities as State liaison and point of contact for communications with federal, state and local entities on matters relating to the State's homeless population and at risk persons and families. This position disseminates and facilitates the flow of available information on homelessness in Louisiana and homeless assistance resources. The State Contact is an advocate for development of resources and collaborative systems to address the unmet needs of homeless people in the State. Other responsibilities of the State Contact include:

- providing appropriate public information to enhance knowledge on homelessness and homeless aid resources
- maintaining the State's inventory of facilities and services to assist homeless persons
- conducting statewide surveys of homeless resource agencies for the collection of statistical data on the nature and extent of homelessness
- preparing reports and resource directories for public distribution.

During the first quarter of 1999, the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homeless conducted its annual State Homeless Needs Assessment Survey for the purpose of compiling information on the nature and extent of homelessness in Louisiana, on the needs of homeless people, and on available homeless assistance resources. The results of the State Homeless Needs Assessment are contained in the Council's Annual Report issued July, 1999. [A copy of that document was submitted to HUD with this Consolidated Plan]. The State Homeless Needs Assessment utilized the following evaluation process to obtain statistical information on persons being served by the State's homeless shelters and transitional housing facilities and to collect descriptive narratives on "continuum of care" resource systems in each state region:

1. All known emergency and transitional shelter facilities in Louisiana were surveyed to provide statistics on the unduplicated number of homeless persons provided shelter during a 12 month period and "point in time" figures for three nights during 1998 and a night in January, 1999. (Similar data had been compiled from shelter agencies since the first state assessment on homelessness in November, 1991.) The Homeless Needs Assessment included a supplemental survey which asked shelter operators to report on local trends in the number of requests received for shelter, relief services and other assistance from 1997 to 1998, and whether evidence indicated that welfare reform measures, or other factors, may have been responsible for any increases in service requests.

2. The Council requested the assistance of regional coalitions, prominent resource agencies and local governments in contributing information from each region's most recent grant application from the national HUD Homeless Assistance "SuperNOFA" competition. The SuperNOFA application process requires that local private and public agencies collaborate on a "continuum of care" strategic plan to inventory local homeless assistance resources, to identify gaps in the local system of housing and supportive services helping homeless persons to move from homelessness to independent living, and to develop and prioritize proposals for new housing and supportive service projects which are targeted at filling identified gaps in the local "continuum of care" system. [The areas covered in these narratives, as required for the

SuperNOFA application process, included: the fundamental component(s) of the local Continuum of Care system currently in place and those the community is working toward; how homeless persons receive or access assistance available under each component; how each homeless subpopulation is reached or will be reached; how the local system facilitates movement of homeless persons from one component of the system to another, and how the components are linked.] All regions of the State complied with the Council's request in supplying narrative information on the above topics.

Region Regional Collaboratives and Coalitions

Coordination of local homeless assistance activities is facilitated through the efforts of regional collaboratives and coalitions as follows:

I. Unity for the Homeless
II. Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (CAAH)
III. Lafourche, Terrebonne Assumption Homeless Partnership
IV. The Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing, Inc. (ARCH)
V. Southwestern Louisiana Homeless Coalition, Inc.
VI. Central Louisiana Coalition to End Homelessness
VII. Homeless Coalition of Northwest Louisiana
VIII. Regional VIII Coalition for Homeless Awareness and Prevention (CHAP)
IX. Northlake Continuum of Care Coalition
X. Alliance for the Homeless-River Parishes

## SPECIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT: PERSONS WITH AIDS

Homelessness is not a new phenomenon in the United States. During the late 1980s and 90s, the familiar, localized populations of transient older men were increasingly joined by new people on the streets: homeless women as well as men, many of them young adults, and even families. Many of the new homeless were African Americans or members of other minority groups or persons with AIDS, and a substantial proportion appear to have severe mental illness in addition to alcoholism and/or other drug abuse problems. Although the data is still incomplete and the baseline is unknown, the U. S. homeless population and rate of homelessness appear to have increased steadily during the 1980s and is still growing.

Among the social and economic factors frequently mentioned as contributing to homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. Despite a growing economy the shortage of affordable housing for low-income renters was greater in 1995, the latest year for which data was available, than at any point on record. According to a report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *In Search of Shelter the Growing Shortage of Affordable Rental Housing,* there are nearly two low-income families competing for every affordable apartment in what has become an unprecedented shortage. Families in need outnumbered low-rent apartments by 4.4 million in 1995, according to the latest figures from the Census Bureau.

The study found that there were 10.5 million families with incomes below $12,000 a year, but only 6.1 million apartments available that would be considered affordable for them. The barriers that face low-income families include: the cost of land, building materials, utilities and maintenance services which have risen faster than wages. Consequently, most landlords cannot make a profit renting to families with very low incomes.

Housing is a critical AIDS issue and should be regarded as an essential element of the treatment plan for people infected with HIV/AIDS. For most people, having stable housing is associated with having a sense of well-being, independence, and health. For those infected with HIV/AIDS, housing also provides a point of contact from which to arrange or receive community-based health and social services. Adequate housing is particularly critical for mothers and pregnant women infected with HIV/AIDS. Many communities throughout the State have reported that housing is the single largest area of unmet need for people with HIV/AIDS.

## 1998-99 Louisiana HIV/AIDS Needs Survey

The HIV/AIDS Program (HAP), in an effort to solicit input from consumers and providers to guide the program funding to services of greatest need, requested individuals with HIV/AIDS around the State to complete a 1998-99 Louisiana HIV/AIDS Needs Survey. This survey was primarily funded with Ryan White Title II funds. The 1998-99 Needs Assessment process included a state-wide distributed survey that was sent to both consumers (people living with HIV/AIDS) and HIV/AIDS services providers. A total of 736 valid client responses were returned for analysis. The results from the 1998-99 Needs Assessment are as follows.

According to the 1998-1999 Louisiana HIV/AIDS Needs Survey Report, nearly half of the respondents (forty-two percent) live in their own house/apartment/room with family or friends. A sizeable portion (twenty-one percent) live in a friend's or relative's home; nineteen percent live alone. There may be some overlap between these groups and the seven percent who live in public housing. People living in housing for PLWA account for four percent of the survey population.

The fact that few surveyed consumers (three percent) report living in a shelter, a drug or alcohol treatment facility, a nursing home, or on the street, may be due to the locations in which surveys were distributed. Individuals living in places listed above may not require or may not have access to some of the ambulatory service agencies used in the survey process.

Statewide

Where Consumers Live n = 716

| Place of Residence | % |
|---|---|
| On the street | 1% |
| In a shelter | 0% |
| With a friend or relative in their home | 21% |
| In public housing | 7% |
| In a drug or alcohol treatment center | 1% |
| In my house, apartment or room with friends or family | 42% |
| In a house for people with AIDS | 4% |
| In a nursing home | 1% |
| Alone | 19% |
| Other | 6% |

## OTHER ACTIONS

The State plans to take the following actions during the FY 2000 program year.

## UNDERSERVED NEEDS

All of the activities which will be funded under the State's Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Investments Partnerships Program, Emergency Shelter Grants Program, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program will address the goal of improving the living conditions of the State's low and moderate income citizens in all regions of the State including underserved small cities and rural areas.

All four programs will assist in the provision of decent housing by improving existing housing units as well as expanding the availability of decent and attractive affordable housing. The Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program will provide funding for infrastructure improvements which will improve the quality of life and raise the living standards of all of the citizens being served. The LCDBG Program also allocates monies for the expansion of economic opportunities with the primary purpose of creating jobs which are accessible to low and moderate income persons; funds are available for local governing bodies to loan to private enterprises for specified industrial development use and/or to use to make public improvements which support a private industrial expansion effort. Grant monies from HOME will be used to eliminate hazards that pose a threat to the health and safety of very low income and/or elderly/ handicapped families who own and occupy substandard housing.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In addition to the programs funded with HOME Funds, the LHFA administers the following affordable housing programs:

Single Family Housing Programs

Mortgage Revenue Bond Program: In addition to the HOME/MRB initiative, the LHFA finances approximately one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000) of affordable loans to first time home buyers for two market segments: first time home buyers requiring closing cost assistance who are granted up to four percent (4%) of the mortgage loan to cover such costs, and first time home buyers simply requiring an affordable loan without closing cost assistance.

Multifamily Housing Programs

Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program: The LHFA administers this federal tax incentive for developers who produce or rehabilitate affordable rental housing units for households at or below sixty percent of the area median income.

Mark-to Market Program: The LHFA will serve as a participating administrative entity in partnership with HUD to restructure FHA-insured affordable rental housing to assure their long term viability.

Multifamily Mortgage Revenue Bond Program: The LHFA finances loans to multifamily housing developers on both a tax-exempt and taxable basis in consideration of such developers entering into regulatory agreements which require the projects financed with such loans to operate with set-asides for low and very low income tenants. Such projects are required to provide defined tenant benefit packages which may include support services and other subsidies to the tenants occupying set-aside units.

Risk Sharing Program: The LHFA is authorized to make available FHA mortgage insurance with respect to first mortgage loans involving affordable multifamily projects which satisfy public purposes published by the Agency in connection with the Risk Sharing Program. Generally, the Risk Sharing Program leverages other resources made available to the Agency in connection with such affordable housing projects.

## REDUCTION OF BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Workshops and seminars for both non-profit and for-profit developers will continue to be offered to provide necessary technical assistance in structuring projects which leverage various sources of both public and private funding. The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency will continue to certify and assist Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) in the development of affordable rental housing and has implemented a home ownership program utilizing HOME funds for construction of affordable single family homes with below market financing for low income buyers to be provided through a CHDO set-aside of Mortgage Revenue Bond monies with HOME funding offering assistance with down payment and closing costs. Louisiana Housing Finance Agency programs will encourage the development of partnerships between for-profit developers, non-profit organizations, local governmental units, commercial lending institutions and State and federal agencies in an effort to reduce barriers and garner community support for affordable housing.

## LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARDS

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for implementing the lead based paint regulations. Senate Bill 616 was passed during the 1997 Louisiana Legislative session. Senate Bill 616 authorizes the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to implement a fee schedule for licensing and certification of those individuals and companies performing lead based paint activities.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality promulgated *Chapter 28, Lead Hazard Reduction - Certification, Licensure, and Standards for Conducting Lead-based Paint Activities* on December 20, 1997. The rule applies to those lead hazard reduction activities associated with target housing and child-occupied buildings. Program functions consist of:

* issuance of certifications and license approvals to trained contractors
* oversight of organizations offering lead training
* receipt of abatement notifications for tracking lead hazard reduction activities
* inspection of lead-based paint hazard reduction projects
* public outreach/compliance assistance

The Lead staff at the Department of Environmental Quality continues to participate in public outreach efforts with members of the regulated community and the general public. The staff responds to numerous inquiries from the public related to lead paint issues. In response to inquiries, the staff has developed fact sheets and information packets for distribution to the public. Also, numerous meetings have been held with an advisory committee (the Lead Task Force), composed of over fifty professionals and interested citizens from around the State. These meetings were held to learn from the public how various aspects of rulemaking would affect their areas of interest. Future task force meetings will explore ways to address lead-based paint activities in superstructures, and public and commercial buildings.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Lead Program applied for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorization on March 3, 1998, under self-certification provisions made available by EPA.

## POLICIES FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

A booming economy and expansive job market drove last year's median household income and poverty rates to the pre-recession levels of 1989, the Census Bureau reported on September 24, 1998. The figures are strong proof that the middle and lower classes are benefiting from the economic recovery that opened the decade. The South led all regions of the country in the percentage increase of median family income. Louisiana was one of the twelve states which experienced an actual increase in the median household income.

According to information released by the Census Bureau in February, 1999, Louisiana had the nation's second highest rate of poverty in 1995, exceeded only by the State of Mississippi. In 1995, the latest year for which figures are available, 21.2 percent of Louisiana's residents lived in poverty, compared to 21.4 percent for Mississippi. That figure means that 912,513 people in Louisiana lived below the poverty line in 1995; nationally, 13.8 percent of Americans lived in poverty in 1995. A family of four was considered poor if its income was below $15,569 per year. The Louisiana rate followed a national trend, dropping from 23.9 percent in 1993 (a reduction of 90,000 people). Of those living in poverty in 1995, 388,182 were under the age of eighteen according to the Census Bureau.

Six nonentitlement parishes in Louisiana had more than thirty percent poverty rates in 1995 including East Carroll Parish (48.6 percent), Madison Parish (36.9 percent), Franklin Parish (31.2 percent, Richland Parish (30.9 percent), and Avoyelles Parish and St. Landry Parish (each with 30.1 percent.)

The lowest poverty rates were in St. Tammany Parish (11.6 percent), St. Charles Parish (12.7 percent), Livingston Parish (13.5 percent) and Bossier Parish (13.9 percent).

The average household income in Louisiana in 1995 was $27,265, the fifth lowest in the United States, compared to the national average of $34,076. The only states with lower average household incomes were Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

As is stated in the Consolidated Plan, Louisiana's anti-poverty strategy is to create more jobs, more employment enhancements and more educational opportunities in order to reduce the number of households with incomes below the poverty line. These primary focal points are believed to assure continued economic growth for Louisiana and will result in increased resources for deployment in its anti-poverty strategy. The following six programs were recently established in the State; these programs will assist in the reduction of families below the poverty level.

In December, 1998, the Department of Economic Development, Economic Development Corporation implemented the Louisiana Small Business Linked Deposit Loan Program. The program is designed to benefit economically disadvantaged business owners and entrepreneurs who are most at risk of exclusion from the capital markets. The Linked Deposit is a certificate of deposit placed by the State with an eligible lending institution at a percentage below existing investment rates, provided the institution agrees to provide a loan to an eligible small business. The lending institution must sign a statement that "but for" the additional cash flow from the program, the lender would not have made the loan. Priority is made for Louisiana businesses located in high unemployment areas. The eligible business must certify that the reduced rate loan will be used exclusively to create new jobs or preserve existing jobs and employment opportunities in the State.

Funds have been appropriated by the State for the Community and Technical Colleges Investment Fund through the Louisiana Workforce Commission for use in efforts to ensure the responsiveness of state community and technical colleges toward meeting the needs of Louisiana's businesses and industries and the needs of Louisiana's citizens for the development of a quality workforce. The colleges are eligible for training funds if they develop a partnership with one or more employers for the purpose of designing training programs to produce skilled workers in a particular trade or technical occupation. Criteria for selection include log-term job demand, level of employer interest, average hourly wage rates projected for employed trainees upon completion of training, opportunities for career advancement, and capacity for bringing qualified disadvantaged citizens, welfare-to-work participants, inmates or parolees into the workforce.

In February, 1999, the Department of Economic Development initiated the Economic Development Award Program, (EDAP). The purpose of the program is to finance publicly owned infrastructure for industrial or business development projects that promote economic development and that require state assistance for basic infrastructure development. Preference will be given to projects located in areas of the State with high unemployment levels. Projects must retain or create at least ten permanent jobs in Louisiana.

The Regional Initiatives Program was begun in February, 1999, to stimulate regional economic development efforts by encouraging existing public and private organizations to combine financial and leadership resources to market their shared strengths to overcome their common deficits. Preference will be given to projects that are regional in scope, those that have a positive economic impact on at least an entire parish, and rural areas and areas currently not receiving economic development funds from the State.

Also in February of 1999, the Department of Economic Development initiated a third new program, the Workforce Development and Training Program. This program is designed to develop and provide customized workforce training programs to existing and prospective Louisiana businesses as a means of:

1. improving the competitiveness and productivity of Louisiana's workforce and business community;
2. upgrading employee skills for new technologies or production processes; and
3. assisting Louisiana businesses in promoting employment stability.

This program provides three types of training assistance for companies seeking prospective employees whom possess sufficient skills to perform the jobs to be created by the companies. The training to be funded can include:

1. pre-employment training for which prospective employees are identified and recruited for training with the knowledge that the company will hire a portion of the trainees;
2. on-the-job training for employees that is needed to bring the employees up to a minimum skill and/or productivity level; and
3. incumbent training for companies seeking to improve the skills of existing employees in response to technological advances or improved production processes.

In 1998, the Louisiana Legislature adopted rules for the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). This program is administered by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance. The purpose of this program is "to provide an incentive for Louisiana residents to academically prepare for and pursue postsecondary education in this state, resulting in an educated work force enabling Louisiana to prosper in the global market of the future." This is an excellent opportunity for Louisiana residents that meet the academic requirements of the program who otherwise may have been unable to afford postsecondary education.

In January, 1997 the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) implemented welfare reform in Louisiana as a result of both state and federal legislation. State and federal laws replaced the entitlement program, AID to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the JOBS program with a block grant - the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grant program. The department's cash assistance program was re-named the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP). Project Independence, Louisiana's JOBS program, became the Family Independence work program (FIND Work) and began operations under that title in May, 1997. The overall goal of the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) is to decrease long term dependency on welfare assistance through job preparation, work and marriage. Funds are also being used on efforts to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. All teen parents must attend parenting skills classes. Under the mandates of the welfare reform legislation, public assistance will no longer be a lifetime benefit. Instead, it is to be an opportunity to become independent after a financial crisis.

The number of FITAP cases in Louisiana as of December, 1998 was 44,377. In an effort to assist FITAP recipients to become employed, the FIND Work program provides an array of services including child care, transportation, education, job skills training, job search, community work experience, and other work-related activities. Fundamental to the program's success is the provision of child care and other support services as well as intensive case management counseling services. Since program inception and as of September 30, 1998, FIND Work statistics reflected 47,033 job placements, with 26,961 of those earning wages sufficient to close their FITAP cash assistance cases.

A total of 8,490 individuals are employed and receiving reduced FITAP subsidies. The program has assisted some 5,095 participants in obtaining high school diplomas, and 10,918 in obtaining their education degrees. As of December, 1998, 1901 participants were involved in unpaid community service to enhance their work skills and experience in order to more effectively compete in the job market.

In late 1990, in response to federal legislation, the Project Independence Program was implemented in Louisiana to assist recipients in becoming self-supporting. This welfare reform effort was enhanced by the mandates of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, and as a result, Project Independence became Family Independence Work Program (FIND Work). FIND Work provides a variety of services and work activities for recipients, including basic education and educational upgrade, vocational education job readiness and search activities, on-the-job training and other work experience placements, and subsidized employment opportunities.

These programs have provided the opportunities necessary for many recipients to "break the welfare cycle." As of December 31, 1998, 51,918 recipients have become employed.

Under the State's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), federal funds totaling $6,403,655 was originally available for the 1999 calendar year (January - December, 1998) to provide energy assistance payments to approximately 42,510 low-income households throughout the State. Of the households served, 14 percent will contain at least one handicapped individual, 28 percent will contain at least one elderly member over the age of 60 years and 44 percent will contain at least one child under seven years old. The maximum benefit offered is $190 for households of five or more members with at least one elderly person, handicapped individual, or child under seven and the minimum benefit is $50. During the summer of 1998, an additional $9,633,559 was contracted in LIHEAP Heat Crisis funds for the costs of relief measures including purchase of fans, air conditioners, and utility assistance payments for eligible households.

The LIHEAP Family Crisis Assistance Program (FCAP) offers additional benefits to eligible households to prevent or eliminate homelessness. Under FCAP, families who have been displaced from their home as a result of a natural catastrophe (fire, flood, windstorm) could receive benefits not to exceed $300 to assist in the cost of re-establishing energy (heating and cooling) services. Other provisions under FCAP assist families in the transition from shelters to private housing by providing payments for energy service deposits and costs.

In 1995, four areas in Louisiana were designated as Enterprise Communities. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated census tracts within New Orleans and Ouachita Parish as Urban Enterprise Communities. The U. S. Department of Agriculture designated portions of Catahoula, Concordia, Franklin, Morehouse, and Tensas Parishes in northeast Louisiana, and census tracts within Madison Parish as Rural Enterprise Communities. Eligibility criteria included population, poverty, and distress (pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress). These communities each received grant awards of $2,858,947 as well as tax and other incentives for the purpose of combating poverty and promoting community and economic development. Areas designated as enterprise communities will retain their designation for up to ten years. The Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, is the state agency responsible for administration of the Enterprise Community Grants.

## Other Special Initiatives - For Information Purposes

As previously discussed, Louisiana will continue programs and initiatives in the areas of education, vocational training, literacy, and workforce development to alleviate the conditions of poverty in the State. Examples of such activities are:

The Department of Labor’s Workforce Centers have been established in thirty-four locations throughout the State. Ultimately there will be at least one center in each parish. The Workforce system, built as a partnership between local and State initiatives, is designed to link the major service providers into a seamless service delivery system that facilitates the growth and development of the Louisiana labor force.

The objectives of the Workforce Center system are to ease customer access through a single point of entry to all services, to establish a unified approach to program intake, assessment, case management, job placement; to accomplish a better match of training and placements with labor market needs, to ease employer use by unifying all employer-related services so they can be accessed via one liaison person and to increase the number of businesses using public employment and training services, and to establish a unified planning process to offer a comprehensive response to the full array of workforce development needs. Each Workforce Center is a physical location where customers receive high quality, user friendly, employment, training and labor market information from knowledgeable staff. Each center contains an extensive Career Resource Library which allows customers to explore job and training information at their own speed. The Job Service, JTPA, Department of Social Services (Work First), Women’s Services, Adult Education, Vocational Technical Colleges, Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Action Agencies with local business advice and support are working together as a team to make services readily available to all customers. Electronic linkages via the Internet allow universal access to information and services throughout each community. Services are available in the areas of career exploration, career development, and job search assistance. Available equipment includes computers installed with word processing training packages and resumé preparation packages, Internet access, laser jet printers, copying machines and fax machines.

For new businesses in the State, Louisiana supports two customized programs for employee training. The QuickStart program utilizes the State’s vocational and technical institutes to provide cost-free pre-employment training customized to a company’s requirements. The Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Program can help a company find trainees and will also pay a portion of their wages while they are in training. Meanwhile, the State’s Workforce Development and Training Program offers both pre-employment and worker upgrade training through public or private sources.

The Louisiana Department of Economic Development’s Division for Economically Disadvantaged Business Development (EDBD) [Phone: (225) 342-5373] was established to help economically disadvantaged businesses to become competitive in this economy. EDBD is a managerial, technical and indirect financial assistance resource provider for certified small and emerging economically disadvantaged businesses. That office endeavors to fulfill this goal by developing and implementing policies and programs created to uplift Economically Disadvantaged Businesses (EDBs) and encourage them to help themselves.

That Office provides certified small business owners with resource assistance in many areas, including the development of business plans, marketing plans, financial projection statements as well as computer accounting training, among other activities. This assistance is offered through state-wide Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and other approved service providers, such as consultants and trained professionals with which the office has developed partnerships. These professionals and SBDCs provide workshops and training that economically disadvantaged businesses may need.

EDBD has the following programs in operation designed to assist certified EDBs:

## Developmental Assistance Program

This program focuses on coordinating technical, managerial, and indirect financial assistance through internal and external resources. Some developmental aspects that EDBs often require assistance with are business plans, marketing, upgrading computer skills, and financial projection statements.

That office meets with the inquiring certified EDB to assess where they are in the progress and development of their business. Once an advisor and the business owner understand the financial and managerial status of the business, the business owner and advisor work together to establish goals and maps out how they plan for the business to reach these goals. This process also helps the business identify any obstacles that are keeping them from reaching their goals.

After the EDB and small business advisor has had an opportunity to create a strategy for addressing these obstacles, consultants are employed to aid the business in overcoming these obstacles.

In order to better benefit the EDB, the business is periodically evaluated to determine additional levels of assistance to ensure attainment of identified goals.

This program is an excellent tool to assist currently certified EDBs with obtaining competitive status in their respective markets.

## Small Business Bonding Program

The primary goal of this program is to aid certified EDBs in acquiring quality bid, performance, and payment bonds at reasonable rates from surety companies.

EDBs receive help reaching required bonding capacity for specific projects. Contractors often do not reach these levels on their own due to balance sheet deficiencies and a lack of adequate managerial and technical skills.

The Louisiana Contractors Accreditation Institute (LCAI) was established to improve managerial and technical skills. LCAI provides business and construction management instruction ranging from the bid process to fiscal management. These classes are developed and taught by leaders of the construction industry via satellite and downloaded to state-wide sites.

After certification by the Department of Economic Development and accreditation by LCAI, contractors are eligible to receive bond guarantee assistance to be used as collateral when seeking bonds. The Department will issue a letter of credit to the surety for an amount up to twenty-five percent of the base contract amount or $200,000. The Small Business Bonding Assistance Program corrects balance sheet deficiencies. A contractor's questionnaire is used to determine the extent of assistance needed.

This program employs the Bonding Model to help contractors become more self sufficient in securing future bonds for their company. The Bonding Model consists of three main interdependent components; the Surety Coordinator, the Department of Economic Development, and a Management Construction Company.

The Surety Coordinator serves as the model manager and is responsible for the coordination and underwriting of the program. The Department of Economic Development directs distribution and marketing throughout the state. The Management Construction Company is the construction manager for the model.

All non-construction businesses qualify for surety bid, performance, and payment bond guarantee assistance upon receipt of certification as an economically disadvantaged business.

### Promotion of EDBs

In an effort to promote certified economically disadvantaged businesses, EDBD compiles and distributes an updated directory of all currently certified EDBs. Other means employed to promote EDBs include the Internet, trade shows, Matchmaker and private contacts. EDBD also enlists the services of both state and private agencies to provide procurement opportunities for the development of certified EDBs and help promote services that these small businesses have to offer.

## INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

The State shall continue to encourage interagency cooperation in the development and implementation of housing and non-housing support service policy and delivery mechanisms through the regular workings of the four agencies involved in the consolidated planning process. Examples of how the State is working with other sources to address any gaps which may exist are identified as follows.

Under the FY 2000 Program, monies are being set-aside to fund water and sewer projects using the self-help technique (LaSTEP fund). These grants will reduce the cost of construction by reducing the project to the absolute essentials and by utilizing the community’s own resources (human, material, and financial). Other states’ existing STEP programs have shown reductions averaging forty percent. Partnerships will be formed among local and state governments, water and sewer districts, and local citizens. Based on the four LaSTEP projects funded under the FY 1997 and FY 1998 Program years, it is estimated that there will be an average savings of approximately forty-nine percent in construction costs.

Financial gaps may exist as a difference between the amount of FY 2000 LCDBG funds available for a project and the total amount of funds needed to complete the project. These gaps are often addressed by the injection of local, private, and other state and/or federal funds.

The State will continue to promote the further development and capacity of Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to develop, own and sponsor affordable housing projects. The State also plans to continue its coordination with local banks, mortgage lenders, and financial institutions in the development of housing and economic development projects. Selection criteria has been added to applications for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and HOME affordable rental housing program to provide an incentive for the development of housing in areas targeted by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development to benefit from the location of new facilities.

## COORDINATED STRATEGY

The LCDBG Program staff coordinates its activities with many other state and federal agencies. The FY 2000 LCDBG public facilities applications for water and sewer projects will be reviewed by staff in the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana; those agencies evaluate the project severity of each application ranking the projects on a scale of one to ten with ten being the most severe. These evaluations will be multiplied by five and the corresponding score will be assigned as the project severity factor on the rating system used for public facilities. Project severity points (a maximum of fifty) represent approximately seventy-one percent of the total points (70 points) comprising the rating system.

Under the housing and LaSTEP program components, it is anticipated that projects will be funded which involve partnerships with private businesses, non-profit organizations, civic organizations, volunteer groups, churches and local citizens.

Through its economic development program, the LCDBG staff expects to work in conjunction with private financing sources that include, but are not limited to, banks, savings and loans, and for-profit businesses.

Based on past experience, it can be projected that many of the projects funded during the FY 2000 program year may involve coordination with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Louisiana Department of Economic Development, Louisiana Department of Agriculture, and the Governor's Office of Rural Development.

The State's point systems for the rating of housing and public facilities applications under the LCDBG Program include two bonus points for those applicants which have target areas within the boundaries of a federally designated Enterprise Community as defined by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The selection criteria under the HOME and Low Income Housing Tax Credits Programs have been and will continue to be tailored to address Louisiana's identified housing priorities and to provide for coordination with the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and local housing authorities. Bonus points may also be awarded to projects which are certified by associations representing the homeless, such as a Continuum, as providing one or more buildings for homeless or other special needs persons within multi-building projects.

The principal State coordinating mechanism for homeless assistance services is the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for Homeless. This council was originally established in 1990 by Executive Order of Governor Buddy Roemer, and re-authorized by Governor Edwin Edwards in 1992 and by Governor Mike Foster in 1996. This state council is composed of representatives of the following agencies and interest: Governor's Executive Office (1), Governor's Offices of Elderly Affairs (1), Veterans Affairs (1), Women's Services (1), Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (1), Department of Corrections: Office of Adult Services (1), and Office of Youth Services (1), Department of Education (1), Department of Labor (1), Department of Health & Hospitals: Bureau of Health Services Financing (1) and Office of Alcohol & Drug Abuse (1), Office of Mental Health (1), Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (1), Office of Public Health (1), Department of Social Services: Office of Community Services, Child Welfare Program (1), Grants Management Division (1), Office of Family Support (1), La. Rehabilitation Services (1), member - La. House of Representatives, member - La. Senate, member - Drug Policy Board, 3 members - Service Providers, 2 members - local government agencies, 2 members - local advocacy groups, member - non-profit legal services agency, 4 members - at large.

The duties of the council are to:

- Prepare an annual assessment and evaluation of service needs and resources for the homeless of the State.

- Research and assist in the development of funding resources for homeless services.

- Insure that services for all homeless persons of the State are appropriately planned and coordinated thereby reducing duplication among programs and activities by state agencies and other providers of services. The council shall participate in the development of all planning related to the McKinney Act .

- Monitor and evaluate assistance to homeless persons provided by all levels of government and the private sector and make or recommend policy changes to improve such assistance.

- Assure flow of information among separate service providers, government agencies and appropriation authorities.

- Disseminate timely information of federal, state or private resources available to assist the homeless population.

- Consult and coordinate all activities with the Federal Interagency Council for the Homeless, HUD and all other federal agencies that provide assistance to the homeless.

- Submit an annual report of its activities to the governing bodies of the agencies represented on the council.

- At least thirty days prior to the opening of the legislative session, the council shall submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature recommending improvements to the service delivery system for the homeless. The report shall also detail any actions taken by the council to improve the provision of services for the homeless and include recommendations to improve the operation of the council.

The State Emergency Shelter Grants Program includes in its selection criteria "coordination and linkage of the proposed project with available community resources " and "the extent to which the proposed activities will complete the development of a comprehensive system of services which will provide a continuum of care to assist homeless persons to achieve independent living."

The HIV/AIDS Program coordinates all HIV-related programs, grants, and contracts throughout Louisiana. This includes the management of the HOPWA grant, Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act funds, working with the HIV Consortia in the nine regions around the State, managing the Home Based Care and Insurance Continuation Program, and training of health care providers. It also includes overseeing the Ambulatory Care programs and communicating with all other state offices, including: The Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, and the Office of Public Health regarding issues of HIV/AIDS.

**PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT INITIATIVES**

The State of Louisiana does not have a State public housing agency which administers public housing funds.

Public housing authorities throughout the State are on the compiled mailing list maintained by the State agencies participating in the consolidated planning process. The public housing authorities are notified of the comment periods and public hearings held for the purpose of receiving comments on the housing and community development needs of the State, on the proposed consolidated plans and annual action plans, and consolidated annual performance and evaluation reports.

All of the housing policies of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency as reflected in the State Qualified Allocation Plan for low income housing tax credits and the allocation of HOME Funds in nonentitlement communities are adopted following a public notice of a public hearing to discuss these policy and funding initiatives. Public housing authorities throughout the State are specifically invited to attend these public hearings and to provide specific input. The Board of Commissioners of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) has a representative of the public housing authorities as a member who has always mediated information and partnership initiatives with the public housing authorities throughout the State. Initiatives implemented by LHFA include:

- The $300,000 limitation of tax credits per project has been increased to $500,000 in connection with projects sponsored by public housing authorities receiving HOPE VI funds.

- A special public housing authority pool of tax credits amounting to seven percent (7percent) of the State's ceiling has been established to allocate low income housing tax credits to housing developments sponsored or developed by public housing authorities.

- All market studies for new construction submitted by Qualified Housing Consultants must contain a certification as to the status of the local public housing agency's waiting list of eligible tenants who may occupy the low income units of a low-income housing development funded with Agency resources and must further certify that percentage of vacancies in the habitable units of the public housing authority.

- Bonus points are awarded to developers of low income housing seeking resources from the Agency if the developer submits an executed referral agreement with the local public housing authority pursuant to which the developer agrees to rent low income units to households at the top of the public housing authority waiting list.

## TROUBLED PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Based on information provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Memphis Troubled Agency Recovery Center, the following four public housing authorities in nonentitlement areas of the State were identified as "troubled": Fenton, Mansfield, Merryville, and St. James Parish. All of these agencies, with the exception of Merryville, have submitted a recovery plan to HUD. Merryville's housing authority was recently identified as being "troubled" and the recovery plan had not been executed as of October 6, 1999.

## CERTIFICATIONS OF CONSISTENCY

As in the past, the State will continue to review applications for HUD funds which are submitted by non-profit organizations, public housing agencies, et cetera, and which require a Certification of Consistency with the State's Consolidated Plan.

In accordance with recently established federal regulations, all public housing agency plans in non-entitlement areas must include a certification signed by the appropriate state official stating that the PHA plan is consistent with the State's Consolidated Plan; those plans must also include a description of the manner in which the applicable plan contents are consistent with the State's Consolidated Plan. As per a memorandum from the State's Office of Community Development dated October 29, 1999, the State advised all of the public housing agencies and section 8 agencies in non-entitlement areas of the review procedure that has been established for those agencies to receive the necessary certification of consistency.

## MONITORING

Program evaluation and monitoring is the mechanism by which the State of Louisiana provides administrative oversight to recipients of HUD funds. The compliance standards required for the specific HUD program, as well as the standards required by other applicable federal and state requirements, have been adopted by the four State agencies administering the HUD funds. Staff in the four state agencies are charged with the responsibility of assuring that all recipients of funding carry out their program activities in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. In carrying out this responsibility, program staff will strive to identify problems early in program implementation, isolate the causes, and assist in corrective measures. These monitoring activities will be conducted in a positive, assistance-oriented manner, and when feasible, deficiencies will be corrected on-site through technical assistance. Program monitoring and evaluation primarily consists of three functions: education, ongoing evaluation and technical assistance, and on-site assistance.

The Office of Community Development will conduct a workshop for its newly funded grantees during the FY 2000 program year. The main thrust of this workshop will be to provide guidance to the local governing bodies and their architects or engineers and administrative consultants regarding their responsibilities during program implementation. A very detailed handbook and other program specific manuals and handouts will be provided to the attendees for their use on the local level. As has been done in past years, the Office of Community Development may conduct one or more technical assistance workshops during the FY 2000 program year. The need for and topics for those potential workshops are yet to be determined.

Routine in-house evaluation and assistance are the primary means of tracking grantee performance/compliance on a day to day basis, determining the need for technical assistance, obtaining data as part of planning the on-site visits, and determining the need for exception site visits. Mechanisms used by the LCDBG staff for in-house evaluation and assistance include, budget reconciliations, requests for program amendments, citizen complaints, tickler and exception reports generated by the computer, requests for payments, contract including the time schedule of activities to be accomplished, audits, et cetera.

The Office of Community Development will conduct on-site monitoring of its local LCDBG programs during the FY 2000 program year. On-site monitoring includes reviews of grantee performance and compliance as well as the provision of technical assistance to facilitate the correction of any problems identified. At least one on-site visit is conducted for each grant; those visits are generally scheduled once the overall program expenditures reach fifty percent. In addition to those regularly scheduled visits, exception visits are conducted when necessary to provide technical assistance for the purpose of dealing with specific problems that might arise.

The Compliance Division of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency actively monitors all HOME properties. Annual physical inspections, file audits and desk reviews permit the staff to monitor the property's adherence to the requirements stipulated in the HOME regulatory agreement regarding occupancy and eligibility requirements. Implementation of the administrative procedures for compliance is vested in the property management agents and on-site personnel. The Compliance Division's analysis of a project's management practices, occupancy and leasing requirements also safeguards that programs are operated professionally and efficiently.

The general procedure for HOME monitoring parallels other program monitoring. The Compliance Division receives documentation, in the form of a transcript or regulatory agreement, that the funding process has been completed. The information, i.e., number of units, number of buildings, owner, etc., is then entered into the data base.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 92.504 Final Rule, site inspections of HOME assisted properties are scheduled. The Compliance Division gives advance notification of the site visit to the Owner to allow for scheduling conflicts, tenant notifications or other unforeseen delays. The properties must meet Housing Quality Standards for decent, safe and sanitary housing. Physical inspections consist of the interiors and exteriors of the property. The number of the set aside units for compliance are monitored. If the Compliance Division observes deficiencies, owners must rectify them within time frames as allowed by HUD. The Compliance Division processes to resolution any problems arising from the inspection.

At the option of the Compliance Division, an audit of the tenant files is conducted on-site or a desk review is performed in the office. This review ensures that record keeping requirements regarding leasing requirements, rent and income limits and all other factors regarding tenant eligibility are satisfied.

The HOME program regulations require all participating jurisdictions to use Section 8 program income definitions. To be eligible for assistance under the HOME program, households must have incomes at or below eighty percent of the median income as adjusted by household size. The Compliance Division monitors income limit requirements. In the event there is a discrepancy regarding tenant income and income limit requirements, correction must be made and documented in the Compliance Division file. The Compliance Division processes to resolution any problems arising from the file audit.

The Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services implemented various procedures to monitor compliance with program rules by recipient local governments and nonprofit subgrantees under the State Emergency Shelter Grants Program. As part of the initial application review process, specific components of project proposals were evaluated with respect to compliance with program rules. This assessment influenced the selection of project proposals to be funded and the amounts of grant funds awarded to individual projects. As necessary and appropriate in the negotiation and development of grant agreements by the State, local governments and/or project sponsors were instructed to revise proposals and budgets to eliminate ineligible activities and/or to align proposed activities more strictly in conformance with ESGP and HUD regulations. As prescribed by program rules, the State assumed HUD's role with respect to oversight of compliance with environmental statutes and authorities, and issued the release of funds only after the requisite environmental clearance was completed and submitted by ESGP recipients/local governments. State fiscal procedures required that payment requests be submitted on DSS supplied forms which identified the costs claimed by ESGP eligible category and described the sources and amounts of matching funds. A process for budget revisions required that recipients submit requested revisions in writing for approval by the State when revisions involved new line items or transfer of funds between ESGP categories. Standard contractual provisions required that grantee local governments submit copies of their audit reports to DSS. Audit review staff of DSS reviewed local governments' audit reports for findings relative to programs administered by DSS and follow up was be implemented on appropriate measures to resolve audit findings.

During the program year ending March 31, 1999, on site monitoring of recipient local governments under the 1997 State ESG Program was conducted by Program Monitors of the Office of Community Services' Management and Finance Division. Monitoring issues included all relevant statutory and regulatory provisions applicable to ESGP compliance as set forth in Title 42 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) Sections 11371 -11378, Title 24 Part 576 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), HUD Handbook 7300.00, Monitoring Guidance for HUD Field Offices and Grantees under the Emergency Shelter Grants Program. Major areas of program compliance which were covered during the on site monitoring evaluations included: client eligibility, separation of church/state compliance, financial management, procurement, environmental clearance requirements, civil rights compliance, drugfree workplace compliance, confidentiality issues, involvement of homeless persons in project, formal process for termination of assistance, record keeping and performance reporting. By and large, the great majority of recipient local governments and ESG assisted projects which were monitored had few or no anomalies or discrepancies found in ESGP compliance.

The State of Louisiana, Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program provides administrative oversight to the recipients of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant. Under the grant agreement with HUD the State of Louisiana agrees to ensure that each project sponsor will:

(1) operate the program in accordance with the requirements of the applicable HUD regulations;

(2) conduct an ongoing assessment of the housing assistance and supportive services required by the participants in the program;

(3) assure the adequate provision of supportive services to the participants in the program; and

(4) comply with other terms and conditions, including record keeping and reports (which must include racial and ethnic data on participants) for program monitoring and evaluation purposes of carrying out the program in an effective manner.

The State of Louisiana further agrees that it will supply HUD with all available relevant information necessary for HUD to perform any required environmental review pursuant to HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 (as amended by the regulations) for each property to be acquired, rehabilitated, converted, leased, repaired or constructed with HOPWA grant funds; it would carry mitigating measures required by HUD or select alternate eligible property; and it would not acquire, rehabilitate, lease repair, or construct property, or commit property, until it has received notice from HUD that the environmental review was complete. Then and only then could a project sponsor proceed to commit or expend the HOPWA grant.

Overall, the purpose of contract monitoring is to assure that the terms and conditions of the national Affordable Housing Act of 1990 are fully implemented by the HIV/AIDS Program and the HOPWA project sponsors. The HIV/AIDS Program is interested in the ability of project sponsors to comply with the requirements and has developed a contract monitoring process permitting several steps to resolve compliance issues, including provision of technical assistance and remediation assistance to facilitate compliance where needed. All HOPWA project sponsors will be monitored for compliance with the aforementioned requirements at least once during the program year. The

HOPWA contract monitoring process includes submission of Agency Monthly Reports with HOPWA invoices and on-site visits.

All clients receiving services must have client files (charts) documenting those services and outcomes. Because HOPWA requires additional reporting and further breakout of services, the documentation in the case files will be monitored closely. Verification of invoices as they correspond to actual service delivery will also be monitored. Compliance with applicable terms of the Federal Register, the HOPWA Program Manual, the HOPWA Contract with the Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program and any subsequent subcontracts will also be reviewed by the Housing Coordinator and fiscal agent. Areas of noncompliance and partial compliance will be noted and corrected through on-going monitoring and a time-limited action plan and follow-up process.

Monthly services reports, including use of funds, number of persons served by the activity units of services, and client level demographic data will be submitted as noted in the HOPWA contract and HOPWA Manual. This information and any further information will then be provided to HUD in the form of an annual report.

# ACTION PLAN: ONE YEAR USE OF FUNDS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

### I. Program Goals and Objectives

The Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program, as its primary objective, provides grants to units of general local government in nonentitlement areas for the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Consistent with this objective, not less than seventy percent of the aggregate of fund expenditures shall be for activities that benefit low and moderate income persons.

Each activity funded must meet one of the following two national objectives:

A. Principal benefit (at least sixty percent) to low/moderate income persons.

B. Elimination or prevention of slums and blight. In order to justify that the proposed activity meets this objective, the following must be met. An area must be delineated by the grantee which:

1. meets the definition of slums and blight as defined in Act 590 of the 1970 Parish Redevelopment Act, Section Q-8 (See Appendix 1); and

2. contains a substantial number of deteriorating or dilapidated buildings or public improvements throughout the area delineated.

The grantee must describe in the application the area boundaries and the conditions of the area at the time of its designation and how the proposed activity will eliminate the conditions which qualify the area as slums/blight. If an applicant plans to request funds for an activity claiming that the activity addresses the slums/blight objective, the State's Office of Community Development must be contacted for the specific requirements for this determination/qualification prior to application submittal.

To accomplish these national objectives, the State has established the following goals:

A. strengthen community economic development through the creation of jobs, stimulation of private investment, and community revitalization, principally for low and moderate income persons,

B. benefit low and moderate income persons,

C. eliminate or aid in the prevention of slums or blight, or

D. provide for other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

## II. General

A. Application Process. This statement sets forth the policies and procedures for the distribution of LCDBG funds. Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants for eligible activities based on a competitive selection process to the extent that funds are available.

The State's Office of Community Development shall establish deadlines for submitting applications and notify all eligible applicants through a direct mailing. The applications submitted for FY 2000 funds for housing and public facilities will be rated and ranked and funded to the extent that monies were available. The ranking under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program will also be used to determine the grants selected for funding under the FY 2001 LCDBG Program. In other words, the top ranked applications, to the extent that monies are available, will be funded under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program; the next highest ranked applications will be funded under the FY 2001 LCDBG Program to the extent that monies are available. Only one application for housing or public facilities can be submitted for FY 2000 funds (with the exception noted under II.G.); that same application will be considered for FY 2001 funds. No new applications for housing and public facilities will be accepted under the FY 2001 LCDBG Program. Economic development applications, demonstrated needs applications, and LaSTEP applications requesting FY 2000 and FY 2001 LCDBG funds will be accepted on a continual basis within the time frames designated by the State's Office of Community Development.

B. Eligible Applicants. Eligible applicants are units of general local government, that is, municipalities and parishes, excluding the following areas: Alexandria (depending on eligibility status which will be determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), Baton Rouge, Bossier City, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, Jefferson Parish (including Grand Isle, Gretna, Harahan, Jean Lafitte, and Westwego), Kenner, Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport, Slidell, and Thibodaux. Each eligible applicant may only submit an application(s) on its own behalf.

In general and in most instances, the applicant for a particular project will be determined by (will be synonymous with) the location of the potential beneficiaries of that project. There may be instances, however, in which the potential beneficiaries reside within the jurisdiction of more than one local governing body. In those circumstances, the following specific rules will apply.

1. If the proposed project will serve beneficiaries that reside in two or more units of general local government and more than fifty-one percent of those beneficiaries are located within the jurisdiction of one of those units, the appropriate applicant will usually be the unit of government in which more than fifty-one percent of the beneficiaries reside; two circumstances where an exception to this rule may apply are discussed as follows.

There may be instances whereby a local governing body owns a utility system but the majority of the users reside outside of the local governing body's jurisdiction. There may also be instances whereby a municipality wishes to extend its utility system to an adjacent, unincorporated neighborhood or street; this type of instance will require annexation. In both of these instances, the local governing body which owns the utility system will be required to meet with the staff in the State's Office of Community Development to determine who the appropriate applicant will be.

Only the applicant, not the other units of government involved, for this type of project will have to meet the threshold criteria to be eligible for funding. The applicant will have to enter into a cooperation agreement with the other unit(s) of government involved; a copy of the cooperation agreement must be included in the application.

There may be other circumstances similar to the ones described but not specifically defined herein; in those instances, the local governing body proposing the project must also meet with the staff in the State's Office of Community Development for the purpose of determining the appropriate applicant.

2. If the proposed project will serve beneficiaries that reside in more than one unit of general local government and no more than fifty-one percent of the beneficiaries are located within the jurisdiction of one of those units, the Office of Community Development will consider this as a joint or multi-jurisdictional application.

All joint applications will require a meeting with the State's Office of Community Development within the Division of Administration prior to submitting the application. The purpose of that meeting will be to determine the appropriate applicant and to explain all of the steps that must be taken by all units of local government involved in the application. All local governing bodies involved in a joint application must be eligible according to the threshold criteria. The designated applicant (one unit of government) will apply for the grant and act as the representative for the other participating units. Although each jurisdiction will have to make the required certifications, the designated applicant will be responsible for ensuring that the approved activities will be carried out in accordance with all applicable state and federal requirements. To meet the citizen participation requirements for a joint or multi-jurisdictional application, each unit of government involved will have to hold the public hearings and publish the notices required for an application. The application will also have to contain individual sets of assurances signed by each local governing body involved. The designated applicant will also have to enter into a legally binding cooperation agreement with each local governing body stating that all appropriate requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, will be complied with; those specific requirements will be discussed during the pre-application meeting with the State's Office of Community Development. A copy of the cooperation agreement must be included in the application. Those local governing bodies which are a part of a joint application but are not the designated applicant may submit an application on its own behalf.

C. Eligible Activities. An activity may be assisted in whole or in part with LCDBG funds if the activity is defined as eligible under Section 105(a) of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and as provided in Appendix 2. For application purposes, eligible activities are grouped into the program areas of housing, public facilities, economic development, demonstrated needs, and LaSTEP projects.

D. Types of Grants. The Office of Community Development will only accept applications for single purpose grants under the housing, public facilities, economic development, demonstrated needs and LaSTEP programs. A single purpose grant provides funds for one need (water or sewer or housing, et cetera) consisting of an activity which may be supported by auxiliary activities. Single purpose economic development grants are for one project, consisting of one or more activities.

E. Distribution of Funds. Approximately $37 million (subject to federal allocation) in funds will be available for the FY 2000 LCDBG Program. Figure 3 shows how the total funds will be allocated among the various program categories.

Of the total CDBG funds allocated to the State, up to $100,000 plus three percent will be used by the Office of Community Development to administer the program (two percent) and to provide technical assistance (up to one percent). Any of the one percent technical assistance monies which are not utilized/obligated for technical assistance at the end of the program year will be transferred to the current program year's public facilities category.

In addition, $2,700,000 will be set aside for the Demonstrated Needs Fund, $2,400,000 will be set aside for housing projects, and $600,000 will be set aside for the LaSTEP Fund. Any of the housing, demonstrated needs and LaSTEP monies which are not utilized/obligated will be transferred to the public facilities program category.

Since the creation and retention of permanent jobs is critical to the economy of the State of Louisiana, up to twenty percent of the remaining LCDBG funds will be allocated specifically for economic development type projects. In order to insure diversification in the requests for infrastructure assistance, a maximum of twenty percent of the FY 2000 funds allocated to economic development, not including the monies in the economic development revolving loan fund, may be utilized in the construction of infrastructure improvements which will facilitate the fraction of privately owned prisons.

Public facilities applications will be funded with eighty percent of the remaining LCDBG funds. Of the total amount allocated for public facilities projects, $600,000 will be set-aside for multi-purpose community centers. The balance of the public facilities fund will be divided among six subcategories; the exact distribution of these funds will be based upon the percentage of applications received and amount of funds requested in each subcategory as established under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program. Half of the money will be allocated based on the number of applications received in each subcategory and half based on the amount of funds requested in each subcategory. The six subcategories for public facilities will involve the following program priorities (sewer systems primarily involving collection lines, sewer systems involving collection and treatment or treatment only, water systems addressing potable water, water systems primarily for fire protection purposes, and streets) and other type projects. Any monies remaining in the set-aside for multi-purpose community centers will be distributed among the public facilities subcategories.

Five months following the beginning date of the State's program year with HUD, the status of the monies originally allocated for economic development will be evaluated. At that time, any monies in excess of half of the original allocation which have not yet been applied for under the economic development category will then be transferred to the current program year's public facilities category to fund additional projects in accordance with the ranking system. Ten months following the beginning date of the State's program year with HUD, all monies not yet applied for which remain in the original allocation for economic development will be transferred to the current program year's public facilities category to continue to fund the highest ranked projects(s) not already funded. In this latter instance, if a determination is made that a particular application for economic development funds will not be funded, the funds reserved for that application will be immediately transferred to the current program year's public facilities category. Should the situation arise whereby a fundable application for economic

FIGURE 3

TOTAL FY 2000 CDBG FUNDS ALLOCATED TO LOUISIANA

Administration/Technical Assistance
$100,000+3percent

Demonstrated Needs Fund
$2,700,000

Housing
$2,400,000

LaSTEP Fund
$600,000

Remaining LCDBG Funds

| Economic Development | Public Facilities* |
|---|---|
| 20 percent | 80 percent |

* Of the total amount allocated for public facilities projects, $600,000 will be set aside for multi-purpose community centers. The balance of the public facilities monies will be divided among six subcategories. The percentage distribution among the public facilities program subcategories will be based upon the number/ percentage of applications received and amount requested in each subcategory as established under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program. Half of the funds will be distributed based on the percentage of applications received in each subcategory and half on the basis of amount of funds requested in each subcategory. Subcategories will be established under public facilities based upon the program priorities (sewer systems primarily involving collection lines, sewer systems involving collection and treatment or treatment only, water systems addressing potable water and water systems primarily for fire protection purposes, and streets) and other type projects.

development infrastructure assistance is received and insufficient funds are available other than those included in the economic development revolving loan fund because funds have been transferred out of the economic development allocation to the public facilities program category, an amount not to exceed the balance of the revolving loan fund may be made available to provide the infrastructure assistance. Any amount taken from the revolving loan fund for infrastructure assistance during one program year will be reimbursed at the beginning of the forthcoming program year; such reimbursement will be taken from the forthcoming program year's twenty percent economic development allocation.

F. Size of Grants

1. Ceilings. The State has established a funding ceiling of $600,000 for housing grants, $600,000 for water grants, $1,000,000 for sewer grants, $225,000 for demonstrated needs grants, $600,000 for LaSTEP grants and $600,000 for multi-purpose community center grants. For demonstrated needs grants, there will be a minimum of $50,000 in actual construction costs (excluding acquisition and engineering costs). For street grants, a minimum of $150,000 and a maximum of $500,000 may be requested; if, as a result of the application review or site visit, it is determined that the construction costs of the total project must be reduced by thirty-five percent or more, that application will no longer be considered for funding. The State has established different and distinct funding ceilings for economic development projects involving the creation of a new business and for economic development projects involving the expansion of an existing business. If the project is requesting funds for the creation of a new business, no more than $635,000 may be requested for a loan and no more than $635,000 may be requested for a grant to the local governing body for infrastructure improvements; if the project involves both a loan and a grant, then a combined funding ceiling of $635,000 will be imposed. If the project is requesting funds for the expansion of an existing business, no specific funding ceiling is imposed for the loan portion of the project; the State, however, reserves the right to exercise its discretion in imposing a funding ceiling available per project. If the project is requesting funds for the expansion of an existing business, no more than $1,035,000 may be requested for a grant to the local governing body for infrastructure improvements. There is no combined funding ceiling established for a project for the expansion of an existing business which involves both a loan and a grant. Regardless as to whether or not the project involves a new business or an existing business, no more than $335,000 may be requested for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of buildings and improvements (including parking lots) by the local governing body as a grant; no funding ceiling is imposed when monies are requested as a loan for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of buildings and improvements (including parking lots) if the project involves the expansion of an existing business. No funding ceiling is imposed for economic development projects involving a loan for the expansion of an existing business; however, the State reserves the right to exercise its discretion in imposing funding ceilings available per project.

Within the ceiling amounts, the State will allow applicants to request funds for the reimbursement of pre-agreement costs (application preparation fees). In order to be eligible for the pre-agreement costs, the following requirements must be met: (1) the application must be funded under the FY 2000 – FY 2001 LCDBG Program years, (2) the LCDBG procurement procedures must have been followed in the procurement of engineering and/or administrative consulting firms, and (3) the application preparation tasks and corresponding costs must be identified in a written contract between the firms and the local governing body. Only those local governing bodies which receive grant awards will be reimbursed for pre-agreement costs. The specific requirements which must be followed will be identified in the FY 2000 - FY 2001 LCDBG Application Package for Housing, Public Facilities, and Demonstrated Needs and in the FY 2000 Application Package for Economic Development. The pre-agreement costs which can be reimbursed with LCDBG funds depend on the type of project funded:

a. Housing applications - a maximum of $2,500 will be allowed. Of this amount, a maximum of $1,000 will be allowed for the packaging of the application and a maximum of $1,500 will be allowed for household surveying costs only if the administrative consultant assumes that responsibility. A minimum of one on-site visit to the target area will be required of the administrative consultant for pre-agreement costs.

b. Public facilities, demonstrated needs, and LaSTEP applications - a maximum of $4,700 will be allowed. Of this amount, a maximum of $2,500 will be allowed for engineering/architectural services; such services may include the preparation of applicable portions of the project description, the cost estimate, the project severity attachment when applicable, pre-application conferences, et cetera. A maximum of $2,200 will be allowed for administrative consulting fees; a maximum of $1,400 will be allowed for the preparation of all non-engineering forms and the overall packaging of the application and a maximum of $800 will be allowed for household surveying costs only if the administrative consultant assumes that responsibility. A minimum of one on-site visit will be required of the engineer/architect and the administrative consultant for pre-agreement costs. No pre-agreement costs for surveying will be reimbursed when census data rather than a household survey is utilized. No pre-agreement costs for surveying will be reimbursed for multi-purpose community centers when limited clientele data is provided by service providers proposing to utilize the center and a household survey is not necessary.

c. Economic development applications - a maximum of $4,000 will be allowed. Due to the individual and unique circumstances surrounding each economic development application, prescribed amounts are not made for administrative consulting and engineering services; the breakdown of those fees will have to be negotiated among the local governing body, the administrative consulting firm, and the engineering firm.

Within the ceiling amounts the State also allows applicants to request funds for administrative costs with the following limitations. Each local governing body will be allowed a maximum of $35,000 in LCDBG funds for program administration (subject to the ten percent retainage) for housing programs; in addition, a maximum of ten percent of the housing construction costs will be allowed for construction administration. Each local governing body will be allowed a maximum of $35,000 in LCDBG funds for administrative costs on public facilities, and economic development projects. The local governing body will be allowed a maximum of $25,000 in LCDBG funds for administrative costs on demonstrated needs projects and $30,000 for LaSTEP projects. If the local governing body has another open or ongoing LCDBG program (one that has not been issued a conditional or final closeout) or if the demonstrated needs project is subsequently approved as an emergency project, the maximum amount allowed for administrative costs will be reduced to $20,000. The local governing body may use no more than ninety percent of the monies allowed for program administration for administrative consulting services. In all instances, the local governing body must retain at least ten percent of the funds allowed for program administration to cover its costs of administering the LCDBG

Program; such costs on the local governmental level include but are not limited to audit fees, advertising and publication fees, staff time, workshop expenses, et cetera. If, after a project has been funded, the scope of the project changes significantly, the State will make a determination as to the actual amount which will be allowed for administrative costs; this determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Engineering and architectural fees may also be requested within the ceiling amounts; the funds allowed by the State will not exceed those established by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (current as of the date of application submittal). The Office of Community Development reserves the right to make adjustments to those ranges when deemed necessary. If, after a project has been funded, the scope of the project changes significantly, the State will make a determination as to the actual amount which will be allowed for engineering costs; this determination will be made on a case-by-case basis. An adjustment (reduction) to the amount allowed for basic engineering fees will also be made in those instances where the project plans and specifications were prepared prior to the grant award.

2. Individual Grant Amounts. Grants will be provided in amounts commensurate with the applicant's program. In determining appropriate grant amounts for each application, the State shall consider an applicant's need, proposed activities, and ability to carry out the proposed program.

G. Restrictions on Applying for Grants

1. With the exception of municipalities with a population of more than 25,000 and parishes which have an unincorporated population of more than 25,000, each eligible applicant can apply for one housing or public facilities grant (including multi-purpose community centers) under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program; those applications not funded under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program will be considered for funding under the FY 2001 LCDBG Program. Those municipalities with a population of more than 25,000 and those parishes which have an unincorporated population of more than 25,000 can submit a maximum of two single purpose applications for housing or public facilities with a combined maximum request of $2 million; the individual amounts requested per application cannot exceed the funding ceiling amount for that particular type of application as identified in Section II.F.1. (Refer to the additional stipulations in Section II.G.2.) According to 1990 census information obtained from the Louisiana Census Data Center as provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, those municipalities and parishes include: Acadia Parish, Ascension Parish, Bossier Parish, Caddo Parish, Calcasieu Parish, Iberia Parish, Lafourche Parish, Livingston Parish, City of New Iberia, Ouachita Parish, Plaquemines Parish, Rapides Parish, St. Bernard Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish, St. Landry Parish, St. Martin Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, Vermilion Parish, and Vernon Parish.

Any eligible applicant may apply for an economic development project, demonstrated needs grant or LaSTEP grant under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program, even those applicants previously funded under the housing or public facilities components of the FY 2000 LCDBG program. The number of demonstrated needs grants which an eligible applicant may receive during any program year is limited to one. With one exception, municipalities may only be funded for a demonstrated needs project every other program year. Parishes may be funded for one project every program year; however, the sewer, water, or gas system for which it receives demonstrated needs funds can only be funded every other program year under the demonstrated needs program category, with one exception. The one exception referred to will be made only in those instances whereby the cognizant state or federal agency advises the Office of Community Development that a waiver is necessary due to the nature of the problem.

2. Capacity and performance: threshold considerations for grant approval. No grant will be made to an applicant that lacks the capacity to undertake the proposed program. In addition, applicants which have previously participated in the Community Development Block Grant Program must have performed adequately. Performance and capacity determinations for FY 2000 (housing and public facilities) will be made as of the date of the beginning of the State's FY 2000 Program year with HUD. Performance and capacity determinations for FY 2001 (housing and public facilities) will be made as of the date of the beginning of the State's FY 2001 Program year with HUD. In determining whether an applicant has performed adequately, the State will examine the applicant's performance as follows.

In order to be eligible for a housing or public facilities grant award under the FY 2000 LCDBG program, the following thresholds must have been met:

(a) Units of general local government will not be eligible to receive funding unless past LCDBG programs (FY 1992, FY 1993, FY 1994, FY 1995, FY 1996, FY 1997, FY 1998, and FY 1999) awarded by the State have been conditionally closed-out with the following exceptions.

For <u>recipients</u> of economic development awards under the FY 1996, FY 1997, FY 1998, and FY 1999 LCDBG Programs and for <u>recipients</u> of demonstrated needs awards funded under the third or last funding cycle of the FY 1998 LCDBG Program and under the FY 1999 LCDBG Program, the State will, at its own discretion on a case-by-case basis, make a determination on the recipient's performance. If the State makes the determination that the recipient has performed adequately, the State may deem that recipient also eligible for FY 2000 funding.

The following stipulations in this paragraph relate to those parishes with an unincorporated population of more than 25,000 and cities with a population of more than 25,000 (identified in Section II. G.1.) which may be applying for funds under the FY 2000 LCDBG program year. If any of these local governing bodies have no open or ongoing housing or public facilities grants awarded prior to the FY 2000 LCDBG program, the local governing body will be eligible to receive two grants under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program. If any of these local governing bodies have one housing or public facilities grant awarded prior to the FY 2000 LCDBG program year which has not been conditionally closed-out, the local governing body will only be eligible to receive one grant under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program; if both applications are in a funding position under the FY 2000 Program, then only that application which has received the highest score of the two will be funded. If any of these local governing bodies have two open or ongoing housing and/or public facilities grants awarded prior to the FY 2000 LCDBG Program year, the local governing body will not be eligible for any grants under the FY 2000 LCDBG program year.

(b) Audit and monitoring findings made by the State or HUD have been cleared.

(c) All required reports, documents, and/or requested data have been submitted within the timeframes established by the State.

(d) Any funds due to HUD or the State have been repaid or a satisfactory arrangement for repayment of the debt has been made and payments are current.

(e) The unit of general local government cannot be on the list of sanctioned communities which is maintained by the Office of Community Development.

In order to be eligible for a grant award under the FY 2001 LCDBG Program, the following thresholds must have been met:

(a) Units of general local government will not be eligible to receive funding unless past LCDBG programs (FY 1992, FY 1993, FY 1994, FY 1995, FY 1996, FY 1997, FY 1998, FY 1999 and FY 2000) awarded by the State have been conditionally closed-out with the following exceptions.

For recipients of economic development awards under the FY 1997, FY 1998, FY 1999, and FY 2000 LCDBG Programs and for recipients of demonstrated needs awards funded under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program, the State will, at its own discretion on a case-by-case basis, make a determination on the recipient's performance. If the State makes the determination that the recipient has performed adequately, the State may deem that recipient also eligible for FY 2001 funding.

The following stipulations in this paragraph relate to those parishes with an unincorporated population of more than 25,000 and cities with a population of more than 25,000 (identified in Section II. G.1.) which may be applying for funds under the FY 2001 LCDBG program year. If any of these local governing bodies have no open or ongoing housing or public facilities grants awarded prior to the FY 2000 LCDBG program, the local governing body will be eligible to receive two grants under the FY 2000 LCDBG Program. If any of these local governing bodies have one housing or public facilities grant awarded prior to the FY 2001 LCDBG program year which has not been conditionally closed-out, the local governing body will only be eligible to receive one grant under the FY 2001 LCDBG Program; if both applications are in a funding position under the FY 2001 program, then only that application which has received the highest score of the two will be funded. If any of these local governing bodies have two open or ongoing housing and/or public facilities grants awarded prior to the FY 2001 LCDBG program year, the local governing body will not be eligible for any grants under the FY 2001 LCDBG program year.

(b) Audit and monitoring findings made by the State or HUD have been cleared.

(c) All required reports, documents, and/or requested data have been submitted within the timeframes established by the State.

(d) Any funds due to HUD or the State have been repaid or a satisfactory arrangement for repayment of the debt has been made and payments are current.

(e) The unit of general local government cannot be on the list of sanctioned communities which is maintained by the Office of Community Development.

All applications will be rated upon receipt. Any housing and public facilities applications that were determined to be ineligible for FY 2000 funding will be re-evaluated for eligibility for FY 2001 funding.

The State is not responsible for notifying applicants as to their performance status.

The capacity and performance thresholds do not apply to applicants for economic development, demonstrated needs or LaSTEP funds with the exception that no award will be made to a previous recipient who owes money to the State unless an arrangement for repayment of the debt has been made and payments are current or to a local governing body on the sanctioned list.

The threshold requirements for FY 2000 funding will not apply to the recipients of the FY 1996 and FY 1997 comprehensive community development funds and FY 1997, FY 1998 and FY 1999 LaSTEP funds based on those grants only. If, however, the recipients of the comprehensive community development or LaSTEP funds have an LCDBG program funded under another program category, that grant must meet the threshold requirements in order for the recipient to be eligible for other funding. The threshold requirements for FY 2001 funding for the aforementioned recipients will be identified in the FY 2001 Consolidated Annual Action Plan.

H. Definitions. For the purpose of the LCDBG Program or as used in the regulations, the term:

Auxiliary Activity - a minor activity which directly supports a major activity in one program area (housing, public facilities, economic development and demonstrated needs). Note: The State will make the final determination of the validity (soundness) of such auxiliary activities in line with the program intent and funding levels and delete if deemed appropriate.

Division - refers to the Division of Administration, Office of Community Development, which is the administering agency for the LCDBG Program for the State.

Extremely Low Income Persons – are defined as those families and individuals whose incomes do not exceed thirty percent of the area median income; to avoid inconsistencies with other income limits, it is defined as sixty percent of the four person family low-income limit, adjusted for family size.

Low/Moderate Income Persons - are defined as those families and individuals whose incomes do not exceed eighty percent of the median income of the area involved as determined by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with adjustments for areas with unusually high or low income or housing costs. The area involved has been determined by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to be the same area as determined for purposes of assistance under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

Low Income Persons - are defined as those families and individuals whose incomes exceed thirty percent but does not exceed fifty percent of the median income of the area involved, as determined by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with adjustments for areas with unusually high or low incomes.

Moderate Income Persons - are defined as those families and individuals whose income exceeds fifty percent but does not exceed eighty percent of the median income of the area involved, as determined by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with adjustments for smaller and larger families.

Poverty Persons - include those families and individuals who are classified as being above or below the poverty level using the poverty index which reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition. The income figures used for the poverty thresholds are based solely on money income and do not reflect non-cash benefit such as food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing. This is the definition established by the U. S. Department of Commerce for census purposes.

State - refers to the State of Louisiana or the Office of Community Development within the State's Division of Administration which administers the LCDBG Program.

Slums and Blight - as defined as in Act 590 of the 1970 Parish Redevelopment Act, Section Q-8. (See Appendix 1.)

Unit of General Local Government - any municipal or parish government of the State of Louisiana.

## III. Method of Selecting Grantees

The State has established selection and rating systems which identify the criteria used in selecting grantees.

A. Data

1. Low/Moderate Income. In order to determine the benefit to low/moderate income persons for a public facility or demonstrated needs project, the applicant must utilize either census data (if available) or conduct a local survey. A local survey must be conducted for housing activities and must involve one hundred percent of the total houses (excluding mobile homes) within the target area.

(a) Census Data. If the applicant chooses to use census data, <u>low</u> and <u>moderate</u> income data will be utilized for public facilities, demonstrated needs and LaSTEP projects. Only that census data which is obtained from the LCDBG staff in the Office of Community Development will be acceptable. That information is available on a community-wide basis as well as for census tracts, block numbering areas (formerly known as enumeration districts), and/or block groups. The applicant must request this information prior to submittal of the application. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has provided the Office of Community Development with low/moderate income data based on the 1990 census; this data will be used by applicants for public facilities and demonstrated needs projects.

(b) Local Survey. If the applicant chooses to conduct a local survey, the survey sheet in the FY 2000 - FY 2001 application package must be used. Local surveys have to be conducted for all housing activities. The information required for local surveys is more comprehensive/extensive beginning with the FY 2000 LCDBG program year than it has been in previous years. All applications for FY 2000 – FY 2001 housing and public facilities projects and for FY 2000 economic development, demonstrated needs, and LaSTEP projects must conform to the newly established survey requirements. Local surveys will have to identify the number and composition of low/moderate income persons as well as the number and composition of moderate, low and extremely low income persons.

When conducting a local survey rather than using 1990 census data, the low and moderate income level for an applicant in a non-metropolitan area will be based on the higher of either eighty percent of the median income of the parish or eighty percent of the median income of the entire non-metropolitan area of the State. The FY 1999 median income for non-metropolitan Louisiana is $29,500; therefore, the non-metropolitan state low/moderate income would amount to $23,600 and the low income limit would be $14,750. The low and moderate income levels for applicants in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) will be determined on the basis of the entire MSA. The annual income limits for low/moderate income persons for each parish are provided in Appendix 3; these income limits must be used when conducting a local survey. The low/moderate income limits shown in that appendix represent the higher of either eighty percent of the median income of the parish or eighty percent of the median income of the entire non-metropolitan area of the State. Appendix 3 also identifies the low income limits for each parish. (All income limits are rounded to the nearest $50 to reduce administrative burden.)

The following sliding scale must be used to determine low/moderate income based on family size:

| # OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD | percent OF PARISH/MSA* LOW/MOD INCOME LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 1 | 70 |
| 2 | 80 |
| 3 | 90 |
| 4 | 100 |
| 5 | 108 |
| 6 | 116 |
| 7 | 124 |
| 8 | 132 |
| 9 | 140 |
| 10 | 148 |

For each person in excess of 10, add an additional eight percent.

*MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area

When a local survey, rather than census data, is used to determine the low/moderate income benefit and/or low income benefit, a random sample which is representative of the population of the entire target area must be taken. The survey methodology and procedures which must be followed when conducting a local survey will be explained in detail in the FY 2000 - FY 2001 LCDBG Application Package for Housing, Public Facilities, and Demonstrated Needs.

B. Program Objectives. Each activity must address one of the two national objectives previously identified under Section I. Program Goals and Objectives.

C. Rating Systems. All applications submitted for housing, public facilities, economic development, demonstrated needs and LaSTEP projects will be rated according to the following criteria established for each program category.

Each housing and public facilities application will be rated/ranked against all similar activities in the appropriate program category/subcategory.

1. Housing (Maximum of 108 Points)

All housing activities which are funded under the LCDBG Program must be consistent with the State's Consolidated Plan (formerly referred to as the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy [CHAS]), as required in the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.

All units which will be rehabilitated or replaced must be occupied by low/moderate income persons. Proof of ownership for owner occupied substandard units targeted for housing assistance must have been verified by the applicant through the local Clerk of Court's office or another method which has been approved by the State prior to the submittal of the application. Also, the number of housing target areas may not exceed two. In delineating the target areas, it must be kept in mind that the boundaries must be coincident with visually recognized boundaries such as streets, streams, canals, et cetera; property lines cannot be used unless they are also coincident with visually recognized boundaries. All houses rehabilitated within the FEMA one hundred year floodplain must comply with the community's adopted flood damage prevention ordinance, where applicable.

Mobile homes are ineligible for rehabilitation or replacement under the LCDBG Program and are not to be surveyed. New mobile homes are <u>not</u> acceptable for use as replacement units.

Adjudicated homes within the target area will qualify for rehabilitation under the LCDBG Program and will be counted as owner occupied housing. The terms for the transfer of ownership to a low income family will be predicated on a ten year forgiven loan basis.

(a) Program Impact (Maximum Possible Points - 25)

This will be determined by dividing the total number of owner occupied units (including adjudicated units) to be rehabilitated and/or replaced plus vacant units to be demolished in the target area by the total number of owner occupied substandard units in need of rehab and/or replacement plus vacant units in need of demolition in the target area.

$$\frac{\text{number of owner occupied units to be rehabilitated and replaced plus number of vacant units to be demolished inside the target area}}{\text{number of owner occupied substandard units including those in need of demolition and replacement plus number of vacant units in need of demolition inside the target area}} = \text{Raw Score}$$

The raw scores will be arrayed and the top ranked applicant(s) will receive 25 points. All other applicants will receive points based on how they score relative to that high score:

$$\textit{Program Impact Points} = \frac{\textit{applicant's~score}}{\textit{highest~score}} \times 25$$

Rental units are ineligible for rehabilitation or replacement purposes under the LCDBG Program.

(b) Needs Assessment (Maximum Possible Points-25)

This was determined by comparing the total number of owner occupied and vacant units to be treated in the target area to the overall needs of the target area.

$$\frac{\text{number of owner occupied and vacant units to be treated in target area}}{\text{number of units in need of treatment in target area}} = \text{Raw Score}$$

The raw scores will be arrayed and the top ranked applicant(s) will receive 25 points.

$$\textit{Program Impact Points} = \frac{\textit{applicant's~score}}{\textit{highest~score}} \times 25$$

No project will be funded that meets less than seventy-five percent of the identified need.

(c) Project Feasibility (Maximum Possible Points-50)

This will be rated based upon the project's cost effectiveness and overall needs of the area including housing as well as infrastructure.

(d) Innovative Efforts to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (Maximum Possible Points-2)

Up to two bonus points will be assigned to those applicants which have made innovative efforts to affirmatively further fair housing in their jurisdictions within the six months prior to the application submittal deadline date. Detailed documentation of such efforts have to be included in the application.

Zero points will be assigned to those applications for which no efforts have been made to affirmatively further fair housing. One point will be assigned where minimal efforts had been made. At a minimum, the applicant/local governing body must have officially adopted a Fair Housing Ordinance equivalent to the sample provided in the most current LCDBG Grantee Handbook, and published a notification of such adoption in its official journal/newspaper. Previous LCDBG recipients which have already adopted a Fair Housing Ordinance have to pass a resolution by the local governing body stating that the Fair Housing Ordinance is still in effect and have to publish a notification of such in the local journal/newspaper in order to receive one bonus point. In order to receive the second bonus point, the applicant has to take further steps to publicly announce its support of fair housing. Such steps could include, but not be limited to, working with local realtors, printing and distributing flyers/brochures, working with the local school systems/PTAs, et cetera.

(e) Involvement of Auxiliary Entities (Maximum Possible Points - 3)

Applicants which will involve other agencies or organizations (such as Green Thumb to provide landscaping, Habitat for Humanity to assist in the renovation or replacement of housing units, or any volunteer or civic groups) in the improvement of the target area(s) will receive one to three points.

(f) Code Enforcement (Maximum Possible Point - 1)

Applicants which specifically identify steps that will be taken through code enforcement to correct problems in the target area that contribute to slum and blight will receive one point; such steps cannot involve financial assistance under the LCDBG Program. In order to receive this point, the local governing body has to identify what sources of funds or resources will be used to accomplish these steps.

(g) Target Area within a designated Enterprise Community (Maximum Possible Points - 2)

If the applicant's housing target area is located within the boundaries of a federally designated Enterprise Community, that application will receive two points. The three federally designated Enterprise Communities are the Northeast Louisiana Delta, Macon Ridge, and Ouachita Parish.

2. Public Facilities - Water, Sewer, Streets (Maximum of 70 Points)

For the purpose of ranking public facilities projects, subcategories will be established (sewer systems primarily involving collection lines, sewer systems involving collection and treatment or treatment only, water systems addressing potable water, water systems primarily for fire protection, streets, and other).

All of the public facilities projects will be rated on an 70 point system with the exception of street projects which will be rated on a 20 point system. Project severity will not be rated for street projects.

Any water or sewer project that is funded must completely remedy existing conditions that violate a state or federal standard established to protect public health and safety.

According to federal regulations, the general rule is that any expense associated with repairing, operating or maintaining public facilities and services is ineligible. Examples of maintenance and repair activities for which LCDBG funds may not be used are the filling of pot holes in streets or the cleaning of drainage systems. LCDBG funds may be used only to reconstruct previously paved streets or to pave streets which have never been paved. Overlaying streets is not an eligible expense with LCDBG funds.

Bridges and drainage improvements are not eligible as street improvements except as an auxiliary activity involving no more than twenty-five percent of the total construction costs. Only curb and gutter or subsurface drainage systems related to street and adjacent yard drainage qualify for improvements; such improvements must, for the most part, parallel streets that are proposed for improvements under the LCDBG Program. For example, if it is proposed to resurface Avenue A which does not have curb and gutter or another type of subsurface drainage, subsurface drainage may also be installed on Avenue A in conjunction with the resurfacing. The amount of funds which will be used to address drainage improvements will not be taken into consideration when determining the average cost per person (cost effectiveness) for street projects.

Parishes are limited to three target areas for streets; each of the target areas can be no larger than a five mile radius.

Specific standards/requirements that must be met for sewer, water and street projects will be discussed in detail in the FY 2000 - FY 2001 LCDBG Application Package for Housing, Public Facilities, and Demonstrated Needs.

(a) Benefit to Low/Moderate Income Persons (Maximum Possible Points - 11)

Projects consisting of more than one activity which involve different numbers and percentages of beneficiaries for each activity must specifically identify the numbers and percentages for each activity.

(i) Percent of Low/Moderate Income (Maximum Possible Points - 10)

The percentage of low/moderate income persons benefitting will be calculated by dividing the number of low/moderate income persons benefitting (as defined by the State) by the total persons benefitting. Points for percentage of low/moderate income persons benefitting will be assigned according to the following ranges:

90% or more - 10 points
at least 80% but less than 90% - 8 points
at least 70% but less than 80% - 6 points
at least 60% but less than 70% - 4 points
less than 60percent - 0 points

(ii) Percent of Extremely Low and Low Income (Maximum Possible Points - 1)

The percentage of low income persons (including extremely low income persons) benefitting will be calculated by dividing the number of low income persons benefitting (as defined by the State) by the total persons benefitting. One point will be assigned to those applications/projects where the percentage of extremely low and low income persons benefitting is sixty percent or more. No point will be assigned for applications/projects benefitting less than sixty percent low income persons.

b) Cost Effectiveness (Maximum Possible Points - 5)

The cost per person benefitting will be carefully evaluated and will be calculated for each project. All applications will be categorized by the type of project being proposed (sewer systems for collection and/or treatment, potable water, water for fire protection, streets, and other). Each project category will then be split into two population groups. The split for each project category will be based on the average value of the total persons benefitting per project which will be computed by dividing the sum of the total persons benefitting by the number of applications for that category. One group will consist of the projects having a larger number of total persons benefitting than the average value; the second group will consist of those projects having a smaller number of total persons benefitting than the average value. (If the total number of persons benefitting from any project equals the average value, that project will be placed in the second or smaller group.) The project in each group having the best cost effectiveness (cost per person) will be given five points and the remaining projects will be prorated. This allows those projects benefitting many people and those fewer people to be rated against other projects benefitting a similar number of persons.

The following formula will be used to determine the cost effectiveness points for each applicant in each grouping:

$$\textit{CE Points} = \frac{\textit{Lowest Cost per Person Benefitting}}{\textit{Applicant Cost per Person Benefitting}} \times 5$$

(c) Project Severity (Maximum Possible Points - 50)

This rating factor does not apply to street projects.

This rating will be based upon the severity of the problem and extent of the effect upon the health and welfare of the community. Priority will be given to sewer systems for collection and/or treatment and water systems addressing potable water and fire protection.

In assigning points for project severity, the following general criteria will be critiqued by the cognizant review agency(s) as determined by the Office of Community Development for the type of project proposed.

Water systems primarily for fire protection purposes: well capacity, reliability of supply, amount of water stored, extent of hydrant coverage or spacing, and water pressure and volume for fire fighting. A comprehensive approach has to be taken for the target area as all factors relating to the remedy of fire protection problems will be assessed. If funds will be requested for a fire truck, the service area of that truck will also be evaluated for availability of water, size of lines, hydrant spacing, et cetera. For example, if a community applies for a fire truck which will serve an area having water lines of an inadequate size, a lower overall rating will be assigned. Although fire trucks may be purchased with LCDBG funds, no other fire fighting equipment may be purchased with LCDBG funds.

Water systems addressing potable water and sewer systems: the existence of conditions in violation of those provisions of the State Sanitary Code that most directly safeguard public health and the adequacy of the proposed improvements to eliminate such conditions. Compliance with the Environmental Quality Act, size of facility, uses of receiving stream, environmental impact upon receiving stream, and human health impact will be taken into consideration for all projects involving sewerage treatment facilities. The assessment will be based upon the problem as documented by DHH and DEQ records, the relative degree of risks to human health posed and the number of persons most directly affected. Problems that are generally attributable to a lack of routine operation and maintenance will result in a less favorable evaluation. The proposed actions to eliminate verified problems will be evaluated in terms of the direct applicability of the solution; superfluous or inadequate solutions will result in a lowering of the overall rating.

The specific details of the existing problems and proposed project have to be provided so that the reviewing agency can accurately assess the project. A lower assessment of the project could result due to the submittal of incomplete information; in those instances, the reviewing agency will <u>not</u> re-evaluate its assigned score. The re-evaluation of assigned scores will only be allowed in those cases where a mathematical error occurred or when the reviewing agency determines that it made an error in assigning the score.

(d) Engineering Plans and Specifications (Maximum Possible Points - 1)

One bonus point will be assigned to those applications which include a certification signed by the chief elected official and an engineer stating that the engineering plans and specifications for the proposed project have already been prepared. A copy of the plans and specifications have to be submitted as part of the application.

LCDBG funds will neither pay for nor reimburse the applicant for the costs previously incurred for the preparation of the engineering plans and specifications. In those instances, adjustments will be made to the amount of basic engineering fees allowed by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development curve current at the time of application submittal.

(e) Pre-agreement and Administrative Costs (Maximum Possible Points -1)

Those applicants which will pay all of the pre-agreement and administrative costs associated with the implementation of the LCDBG program will receive one bonus point. Such costs will include, but not be limited to, application preparation fees, audit fees, advertising and publication fees, local staff time, workshop expenses, administrative consultant fees, et cetera. If the applicant plans to utilize the services of an administrative consultant, local funds must be pledged and allocated for such services. While the LCDBG Program will allow a maximum of $4,700 for pre-agreement costs and $31,500 for an administrative consultant's fees, the actual cost of these services may be less than these amounts and will be determined through negotiation during the procurement process. To substantiate that the local governing body will pay the pre-agreement and administrative costs associated with the LCDBG Program, a certification of such signed by the chief elected official must be included in the application as well as a copy of the resolution by the local governing body identifying the firms hired and the proposed amount of the contracts. That resolution must state that local funds will be used to pay the pre-agreement and administrative consultant fees and any other administrative costs incurred by the local governing body.

If the local governing body maintains full-time permanent staff for the sole or partial purpose of administering LCDBG or other federal programs, such staff must have proved its capacity to administer LCDBG or other federal programs through previous program administration. In this instance, the one bonus point will also be assigned.

The following requirement will apply to those applicants which receive the bonus point for paying pre-agreement and administrative costs and are successful in receiving a grant. If such grantees have an underrun in their project costs, the grantee will not be allowed to rebudget those monies for the purpose of reimbursing the local governing body for any pre-agreement or administrative costs associated with the LCDBG Program.

(f) Target Area within a Designated Enterprise Community (Maximum Possible Points - 2)

If the applicant's public facilities target area(s) are located within the boundaries of a federally designated Enterprise Community, that application will receive two points. The three federally designated Enterprise Communities are the Northeast Louisiana Delta, Macon Ridge, and Ouachita Parish.

Use of Other Funds in Conjunction with LCDBG Funds. Some projects may cost more than can be requested under the LCDBG Program; therefore, the applicant may propose to use other funds in conjunction with the LCDBG funds. Applicants that want to use other funds in conjunction with LCDBG funds must have those funds available and ready to spend. If the other funds involve loans or grants from other state, federal, or private sources, the monies must have already been awarded or be in the bank. To substantiate the immediate availability of the other funds, one of the following items was required: a letter from the local governing body stating the specific source, amount, and location of local cash, a line of credit letter from a financial institution such as a bank stating the amount available as a loan, specific evidence of funds to be received from a tax or bond election that has already passed, or a letter from another funding agency stating that the funds have been awarded and are currently available for expenditure.

If other funds are involved and that applicant is in a position to be funded, the LCDBG staff will contact the applicant prior to a grant award and request positive proof of the current availability of the other funds; if proof cannot be provided within the time frame allowed by the Office of Community Development (approximately ten calendar days), then the project will not be funded. For example, if applicant number one does not have the other funds available for FY 2000 funding, then that applicant will not be funded under the FY 2000 program. Applicant number one will be reconsidered for funding again under the FY 2001 program; if the other funds are not available at that time, the applicant will no longer be considered for funding.

Insuring Adequate Financial Maintenance of Existing Water and Sewer Systems. Recipients of FY 2000 and FY 2001 grants providing funds for potable water and sewer assistance for an existing utility must be able to demonstrate, prior to release of funds, that the rate structure is adequate to properly operate and maintain the system once it is in operation. This will be determined by examining the system's current financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and financial projections of the completed project. The examination will include the system's cash flow for operating expenses, debt service obligations, and provision for future maintenance requirements. Cashflow for future maintenance requirements will be set aside in a restricted assets account. Applicants must provide information on its current and future rate structure to include volume, price, and number of customers. Expense data will include at a minimum current and projected electrical power requirements, chemical and materials expense, labor costs, and depreciation expense. The decision as to the adequacy of the rate structure shall be determined by the LCDBG staff considering all of the above factors.

3. Public Facilities - Multi-purpose Community Centers (Maximum of 53 Points)

Six hundred thousand dollars will be set aside to construct one or more multi-purpose community centers. The purpose of this activity is to provide a building which would assist local governing bodies in resolving some of their social, educational, human development needs and problems utilizing a comprehensive approach. This approach would centralize activities in one location and impact as many people as possible. Such activities provided at the center may include medical, dental, counseling, educational, recreational, and social services. It is expected that other funds and resources will be used in conjunction with the LCDBG funds.

Funds can be requested for new construction, or renovation of a vacant building for use as a multi-purpose community center. Renovations or additions to, or replacement of existing multi-purpose community centers are ineligible.

Each applicant must present a financial plan identifying the projected amount(s) and sources(s) of revenues, operating expenses, and funds for maintenance. Sources of revenue can be general revenue sources of the local government, dedicated revenue sources of the local government, and/or receipts from events. In addition, a letter of commitment from the local governing body indicating its commitment of a minimum of $39,700 must be submitted with the application. These funds are to be used for pre-agreement and administrative costs; any monies remaining after paying those costs will be used toward construction costs.

The following criteria will be rated for these applications.

(a) Benefit to Low/Moderate Income Persons (Maximum Possible Points - 20)

Projects consisting of more than one activity which involve different numbers and percentages of beneficiaries for each activity must specifically identify the number and percentages for each activity. For rating purposes, however, the application will be rated based upon the overall total number of persons benefitting.

(i) Percent of Low/Moderate Income (Maximum Possible Points - 5)

The percentage of low/moderate income persons benefitting will be calculated by dividing the number of low/moderate income persons benefitting (as defined by the State) by the total persons benefitting. Points for percentage of low/moderate income persons benefitting will be assigned according to the following ranges:

90% or more - 5 points
at least 80% but less than 90% - 4 points
at least 70% but less than 80% - 3 points
at least 60% but less than 70% - 2 points
less than 60% - 0 points

(ii) Number of Low/Moderate Income (Maximum Possible Points - 5)

Points for the number of low/moderate income persons benefitting will be assigned according to the following ranges:

500 or more - 5 points
200 - 499 - 4 points
less than 200 - 3 points

(iii) Percent of Extremely Low and Low Income (Maximum Possible Points - 5)

The percentage of extremely low and low income persons benefitting will be calculated by dividing the number of extremely low and low income persons benefitting (as defined by the State) by the total persons benefitting. Points for percentage of extremely low and low income persons benefitting will be assigned according to the following ranges:

90% or more - 5 points
at least 80% but less than 90% - 4 points
at least 70% but less than 80% - 3 points
at least 60% but less than 70% - 2 points
less than 60% - 0 points

(iv) Number of Extremely Low and Low Income (Maximum Possible Points - 5)

Points for the number of extremely low and low income persons will be assigned according to the following ranges:

500 or more - 5 points
200 to 499 - 4 points
less than 200 - 3 points

(b) Cost Effectiveness (Maximum Possible Points - 5)

Cost estimates per person benefitting will be carefully evaluated. The cost per person benefitting will be calculated for all projects. Points will be assigned on a range of one to five. The applicant with the lowest cost per person will receive five points, the applicant with the second lowest cost per person will receive four points, the applicant with the third lowest cost per person will receive three points, et cetera. Unless there are identical costs per person, only one applicant will receive scores of one through four. If more than five applications are received, it is possible that more than one application will receive one point. The minimum number of points which will be assigned is one.

(c) Utilization (Maximum Possible Points - (20)

The applicant must identify the types of activities that will be conducted in the multi-purpose community center. The applicant must also identify the service providers which will be housed in the facility; letters of intent from the service providers must be included in the application. The letters should indicate the name and purpose of the service provider, description of services to be provided, description of time frame for the provision of services, clientele data, et cetera. It is expected that services will be provided at the center on a daily basis.

(d) Proximity of Services (Maximum Possible Points - 5)

For each service provider which will be located in the community center, the applicant must identify the location at which those services are now being provided. Those applicants proposing services that are not currently being provided within the proposed target area will score the highest.

(e) Architectural Plans and Specifications (Maximum Possible Points - 1)

One bonus point will be assigned to those applications which include a certification signed by the chief elected official and an architect stating that the architectural plans and specifications for the proposed project have already been prepared. A copy of the plans and specifications have to be submitted as part of the application.

LCDBG funds will neither pay for nor reimburse the applicants for the costs previously incurred for the preparation of the architectural plans and specifications. In those instances, adjustments will be made to the amount of fees allowed by the Rural Economic and Community Development curves.

(f) Target Area within a Designated Enterprise Community (Maximum Possible Points - 2)

If the applicant's target area is located within the boundaries of a federally designated Enterprise Community, that application will receive two points. The three federally designated Enterprise Communities are the Northeast Louisiana Delta, Macon Ridge, and Ouachita Parish.

4. Economic Development

The economic development set aside is to be used to provide loans to businesses for job creation or retention projects and/or to provide grants to local governing bodies for infrastructure improvement which will facilitate the location of a particular business.

Recent federal legislation has mandated that LCDBG assistance will not be available to assist directly in the relocation of any industrial or commercial plans, facility, or operation, from one area to another area, if the relocation is likely to result in a significant loss of employment in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs.

The LCDBG economic development funds go from the State to the local unit of government to the private developer. A three-way agreement (contract) is signed by these three participants, and other parts of the application are reviewed by them to ensure a complete understanding by the three parties of the planned development, the expected number of jobs to be created or retained, the sources and uses of all funds to be committed to the project, the payback arrangements for all funds borrowed, the security assigned to each loan granting institution or agency, the financial and other reporting requirements of the developer and the local unit of government to the State, and all other obligations of the developer, the local governmental unit and the State.

An application for LCDBG economic development funds may be submitted at any time during the year.

The term "developer" shall mean the corporate entity as well as the individual investors, stockholders, and owners of the applicant business. As an example of the effect of this definition, an LCDBG economic development loan to Company A cannot be used to purchase equipment, land, et cetera from Company B, when both Company A and Company B are substantially owned by one or more of the same individuals. No grant award will be made to a local governing body for an economic development project which consists of a loan and/or infrastructure improvements in which an elected official or a member of his/her immediate family has a financial interest as the project developer.

The State will recoup one hundred percent of the payback of LCDBG economic development loans (program income to the State). Lease payments received as a result of LCDBG funds utilized in the construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of a building shall be charged at a fair market value and shall be considered as program income. If the recipient elects to charge in excess of fair market value rent, the extra portion shall also be considered as program income and will be returned to the State. If LCDBG funds are utilized in conjunction with other funds for such construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation, the pro-rata share of the lease payment will be considered program income and will be remitted to the State. These program income funds received by the State will be placed in an Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund which will be used to supplement funding for economic development projects. These funds will be subject to the federal regulations regarding use of program income. The interest rate charged on the LCDBG economic development loan depends on the financial and cash flow projections of the applicant business. This rate will be determined in the application review.

In some instances it may be appropriate for a local unit of government to receive a grant for infrastructure improvements or the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a building needed by a specific developer before his proposed job creation project can be fully implemented. (The term "specific developer" herein relates to a single private for-profit business entity that possesses a federal tax identification number.) This economic development grant could be used by the local unit of government to provide sewer, water, and street/road access on public property to the private industrial/business site boundaries. It cannot be used to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate a building or to create a general industrial park project with the hope that a business client will then be attracted. It must be tied to a specific developer creating a specific number of jobs for low to moderate income people. The number of permanent full-time jobs created will dictate the types and amounts of funds available. A minimum of sixty percent of all jobs created by the developer prior to project close must be held by persons of low/moderate income families (see Appendix 3).

When requesting infrastructure to facilitate the location of a business at a particular site, the developer must be able to show that this is appropriate to the needs of the business. To be considered for funding, the business must be able to demonstrate why the particular site chosen is superior to other sites that may be available and already possesses the proper infrastructure. The developer must provide sufficient financial and other statements, projections, et cetera to establish that the business is likely to be successful, and will create the appropriate number of jobs at the site in a specified time frame.

Certain assurances by the developer, related to the timing of his development on the site, will be required. Other agreements between the local governing body and the developer/property holder, relative to public rights of way, et cetera will be required as needed on an individual project basis.

The maximum amount available to the local governing body for an infrastructure or building acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation type project grant is $10,000 per job created or retained, with a $1,035,000 limit for infrastructure improvements on any single project (including a building and improvements) or a $335,000 limit for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a building and improvements, including parking lots. In those instances where a local governing body has received a grant for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a building and improvements and the building is sold prior to receiving sufficient lease payment revenues to offset the amount of the grant, the governing body will be responsible to the State for the net unpaid portion of the grant, regardless of the sales price. "Net unpaid portion' shall mean the grant amount, less administration costs and any lease payments previously made to the State. The sales procedure to be followed by the local governing body must be approved in writing by the Office of Community Development prior to the sale.

The following five requirements must be met by all economic development applicants:

(a) A firm financial commitment from the private sector will be required upon submission of the application.

For a loan or a grant, the private funds/public funds ratio must not be less than l:l for manufacturing firms with Standard Industrial Code classifications of 20-39. A private to public ratio for non-manufacturing firms must have a ratio of 2.5:1.

For a grant to the local governing body for infrastructure improvements and/or for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a building and improvements for economic development, the private funds/public funds ratio for grant funds equal to or less than $500,000 must be 1:1 and for grant funds in excess of $500,000 must be 2:1. For example, if a local governing body requests $700,000 as a grant for infrastructure improvements, the private funds/public funds ratio would have to be 1:1 for the first $500,000 and 2:1 for the remaining $200,000 requested. Infrastructure grants for non-manufacturing firms will require a private/LCDBG funds ratio of at least 2.5:1.

The State must be assured that non-manufacturing projects will have a net job creation impact on the community and not simply redistribute jobs around the community. In addition, certain manufacturing and non-manufacturing projects will not be considered for funding based on past experience and the lack of potential for creating permanent positions. These non-eligible projects will include, but are not limited to, "cut and sew" operations involving the manufacture of clothing/apparel and non-manufacturing operations such as hotels or motels.

Additionally, those projects involving “truck shops and related activities” will not be considered for funding. Private prison developments will be considered only when the ownership, management, and employment qualify as being in the private sector. Privately owned prisons that are staffed with public sector employees, such as parish deputies, **will not be eligible.**

Private funds must be in the form of a developer's cash or loan proceeds. Revenues from the sale of bonds may also be counted if the developer is liable under the terms of the bond issue. Previously expended funds will not be counted as private funds for the purpose of this program, nor will private funds include any grants from federal, state or other governmental programs, nor any recaptured funds. The value of land, buildings, equipment, et cetera, already owned by the developer and which will be used in the new or expanded operation, will not be considered as private match.

Personal endorsement from all principals of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies or sole proprietorships shall be required on the LCDBG loan documents. The principals shall: 1) endorse the LCDBG loan to the corporation and 2) guarantee the payment and fulfillment of any obligation of the corporation. These endorsements will be made jointly to the local government and State of Louisiana. Normally, a principal is defined as owning five percent or more of the business.

(b) If cost per job created or retained exceeds $15,000 for a loan to a developer or $10,000 for a grant to the local governing body, the application will not be considered for funding.

(c) A minimum of ten jobs created or retained is required for LCDBG economic development assistance.

(d) A minimum of sixty percent of the employment will be made available to people who at the time of their employment have a family income that is below the low to moderate income limit for the parish where the development occurs (see Appendix 3).

(e) The application must include documentation showing that the project is feasible from the management, marketing, financial, and economic standpoints. Management feasibility has to do with the past experience of the developer in managing the type of project described in the application, or other similar managerial experience. Marketing feasibility deals with how well the market for the product has been documented at the application stage the best case being that the developer has verifiable commitments substantiating the first year's sales projection. A typical market study includes a detailed analysis of competition, the expected geographical sales plan, and letters of intent to buy, specifying quantity and price. Economic feasibility relates to whether or not the developer has realistic projections of revenues and variable costs, such as labor and cost of materials, and whether they are consistent with industry value added comparisons. An assessment will be made of the industry sector performances for the type of industry/business described in the application. Financial feasibility has to do with the ability of the firm to meet all of its financial obligations in the short and long run, determined by a cash flow analysis on the financial history and projections of the business. In analyzing the financial feasibility of a project, the Office of Community Development may suggest alternatives in the timing of expenditures, the amount and proposed use of public and private funds, as well as other financial arrangements proposed in the application.

For an application to be funded, the State must be assured that: the project is credit worthy; there is sufficient developer equity; the LCDBG funds will be efficiently and effectively invested; the maximum amount of private and the minimum amount of public funds will be invested in the project; the project will make an adequate return in the form of public benefits commensurate with the money invested; the State and the local community will not assume a disproportionate amount of risk in the project; and, the State and the community will receive an adequate security interest proportionate to the LCDBG funds invested in the project.

*Default:* The local governing body shall be ultimately responsible for repayment of the contract funds which were provided by the State.

The State shall look to the local governing body for repayment of all funds disbursed under this contract and default by the developer shall not be considered as just cause for non-payment by the local governing body. In case of a default by the local governing body in the repayment of contract funds to the State, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract, the full sum remitted to the local governing body shall become due and payable to the State upon demand, without the need of putting the local governing body in default.

The State shall deem the local governing body in default, regardless of the fact that the default was precipitated by the developer, to the extent that the local governing body failed to perform its contractual obligations in good faith.

5. Demonstrated Needs Fund

A $2.7 million reserve fund will be established to alleviate critical/urgent community needs. The ceiling amount for demonstrated needs projects is $225,000. All demonstrated needs projects must involve a minimum of $50,000 in actual construction costs (excluding acquisition and engineering costs). With the exception noted in Section II.G.1., municipalities are only allowed to be funded for demonstrated needs funds every other program year. Parishes may be funded for one demonstrated needs project every program year; however, the sewer, water, or gas system for which it is funded can only receive demonstrated needs funding every other program year with the exception noted in Section II.G.1. For example, if a municipality or particular parish water district received funding under the FY 1999 program for demonstrated needs, that municipality or parish water district would not be eligible to receive funds under the FY 2000 program year unless an exception is made.

There will be three funding cycles during the FY 2000 program year. The beginning and ending dates of these three cycles are April 1, 2000, to July 31, 2000, August 1, 2000, to November 30, 2000, and December 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. Any applications received after the fifteenth of the ending month of each cycle will be considered for funding under the forthcoming cycle. Each funding cycle will consist of $900,000 in funds. If monies remain at the end of the first and second funding cycles, those monies will be transferred for use in the subsequent funding cycle. Applications may be submitted to this office anytime during the cycles. An application cannot be submitted for consideration under this fund if the same application is currently under consideration for funding under any other LCDBG program category. A project's application can only be submitted **once** during the program year. In other words, if a project is not funded during a particular cycle, it cannot be resubmitted during a later funding cycle. At the conclusion of each cycle, the applicants designated for funding will be notified.

Subject to the availability of funds, projects that meet the following criteria will be funded:

(a) General Eligibility

Proposed activities must be eligible under Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, (see Appendix 2). These funds will only be awarded, however, to projects involving improvements to existing water, sewer, and gas systems. Fire trucks and firefighting equipment and projects for sewer treatment facilities for which DEQ or EPA have issued compliance orders are <u>not</u> eligible for funding under the demonstrated needs fund.

Each proposed activity must address one of the two national objectives.

(b) Critical/Urgent Need - Project Severity

Each activity must address a critical/urgent need which can be verified by the Office of Community Development as having developed within **<u>three</u>** months prior to submittal of the application.

The project evaluation request should be completed and included in the application. In addition to the stipulation that the critical/urgent need must have developed within three months prior to submittal, the Office of Community Development will rate the severity or urgency of the project on a scale of 1 to 10 based upon the same criteria established for determining program severity for regular public facilities projects. Only those projects receiving a rating of at least 9 or 10 will be considered for funding. At the end of each funding cycle, staff members from this office will compare the eligible applications received during the cycle and compile a listing of the applications with the most critical/urgent project listed first to the least critical/urgent project listed last. The applications will be funded as far as funds are available for that cycle.

The State has the discretion to fund an application anytime during a funding cycle when the project is of **<u>extreme</u>** emergency in nature, and the cognizant agency deems the project to be as such.

(c) Application Requirements

All items and forms necessary for a regular public facilities application will also be required for demonstrated needs. A copy of the evaluation request and the completed application forms will be submitted to the Office of Community Development.

6. LaSTEP Fund

$600,000 will be set-aside to fund one or more projects under the LaSTEP Fund. These funds will be available for eligible recipients who are willing to solve water and sewer problems through the Small Towns Environmental Program (STEP) self-help techniques. The idea to use self-help as the method to meet a community's water and sewer needs usually begins with the realization that the community cannot afford the needed improvements if they are to be installed completely by construction contractors through the open bidding process. By reducing the project to the absolute essentials and utilizing the community's own resources (human, material, and financial), the project costs can be reduced significantly. Other states' existing STEP programs have shown reductions averaging forty percent. LaSTEP funds can be used to cover materials, engineering, and administrative costs.

Proposals for water and sewer improvements will be considered for LaSTEP funding if the following criteria are addressed: (1) the proposed activities can be completed through self-help, (2) the use of self-help methods will result in a significantly reduced project cost, and (3) the potential applicant is committed and ready to begin and complete the project using self-help. Those local governing bodies which are interested in applying for LaSTEP funds may contact the Office of Community Development to schedule a pre-application conference; the purpose of the pre-application conference will be to discuss a specific project. If it is felt that the specific project meets the qualifications of the LaSTEP fund, the potential applicant will be invited to submit an application. All applications must include documentation of the project cost savings due to self-help (a comparison of the project costs utilizing self-help to the project costs utilizing conventional construction methods) and documentation of principal benefit to low and moderate income persons. The staff in the Office of Community Development will provide guidance, assistance, and support of community leaders and residents willing to use self-help to solve their water and sewer problems.

D. Submission Requirements

Housing and public facilities applications for FY 2000 - FY 2001 funds must be submitted to the Office of Community Development on the forms and in accordance with the instructions provided in the FY 2000 - FY 2001 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Application Package for Housing, Public Facilities and Demonstrated Needs; applications for FY 2000 demonstrated needs funds will use the forms and instructions in that same package. Applications for FY 2000 economic development funds will be submitted to the Office of Community Development on the forms and in accordance with the instructions provided in the FY 2000 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Application Package for Economic Development. Applications for FY 2000 LaSTEP funds will be submitted to the Office of Community Development on the forms and in accordance with the instructions provided by the Office of Community Development.

Only that data received by the deadline established for applications will be considered in the selection process unless additional data is specifically requested by the Office of Community Development. Material received after the deadline will not be considered as part of the application, unless requested by the Office of Community Development.

E. Application Review Procedure

1. The application must be mailed or delivered prior to any deadline dates established by the Office of Community Development. The applicant must obtain a "Certificate of Mailing" from the Post Office, certifying the date mailed. The Office of Community Development may require the applicant to submit this Certificate of Mailing to document compliance with the deadline, if necessary.

2. The application submission requirements must be complete.

3. The funds requested must not exceed the ceiling amounts established by the Office of Community Development.

4. Review and Notification. Following the review of all demonstrated needs and economic development applications, the Office of Community Development will notify the applicant of the actions taken with regard to its application. Following the funding of the FY 2001 housing and public facilities applications, the Office of Community Development will notify those applicants who were unsuccessful in being funded.

5. Criteria for Conditional Approval. The Office of Community Development may make a conditional approval, in which case the grant will be approved, but the obligation and utilization of funds is restricted. The reason for the conditional approval and the actions necessary to remove the condition shall be specified. Failure to satisfy the condition may result in a termination of the grant. Conditional approval may be made:

a. where local environmental reviews have not yet been completed;

b. where the requirements regarding the provision of flood or drainage facilities have not yet been satisfied;

c. to ensure the project can be completed within estimated costs;

d. to ensure that actual provision of other resources required to complete the proposed activities will be available within a reasonable period of time.

6. Criteria for Disapproval of an Application. The Office of Community Development may disapprove an application for any of the following reasons:

a. Based on a field review of the applicant's proposal or other information received, it is found that the information was incorrect; the Office of Community Development will exercise administrative discretion in this area.

b. The Office of Community Development determines that the applicant's description of needs and objectives is plainly inconsistent with facts and data generally available. The data to be considered must be published and accessible to both the applicant and State such as census data, or recent local, area wide, or state comprehensive planning data.

c. Other resources necessary for the completion of the proposed activity are no longer available or will not be available within a reasonable period of time.

d. The activities cannot be completed within the estimated costs or resources available to the applicant.

e. The proposed activity is not eligible for funding or one of the two national objectives is not being met.

f. The application does not score high enough to be above the funding line.

F. Program Amendments for LCDBG Program

The Office of Community Development may consider amendments if they are necessitated by actions beyond the control of the applicant. Recipients shall request prior approval from the Office of Community Development for all program amendments involving new activities or alteration of existing activities that will change the scope, location, or objectives of the approved activities or beneficiaries.

1. New or altered activities are considered in accordance with the criteria for selection applicable at the time the original application was reviewed and the policy, current at that time, regarding amendments.

2. All amended activities must receive environmental clearance prior to construction.

3. The Office of Community Development will ascertain as to whether or not the proposed activity is an integral part of the originally approved project and is necessary to complete the project as originally approved.

4. The Office of Community Development will also review the site location of the proposed activity in relation to the originally approved target area. If there is a budget underrun and an expansion of the target area is requested, approval of the amendment will be based upon the following circumstances. Such expansions will have to be contiguous to the original target area. The overall project will still have to primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. After making any adjustments to the score of the original application, the revised application will still have to remain above the funding line. The scope and intent of expansion will have to be in keeping with the scope and intent of the originally funded application. The requested amendment cannot merely involve an enhancement of the originally approved project.

## IV. Administration

Rule for Policy Determination. In administering the program, while the Office of Community Development is cognizant of the intent of the program, certain unforeseeable circumstances may arise which may require the exercise of administrative discretion. The Office of Community Development reserves the right to exercise this discretion in either interpreting or establishing new policies.

## V. Redistribution of Funds

Any monies awarded by the State that are later recaptured by or returned to the State will be reallocated in accordance with the Office of Community Development's policy, then in effect. The sources of these funds may include, but not be limited to, program income, questioned costs, disallowed expenses, recaptured funds from loans, unallocated monies, previously awarded funds not spent by grant recipients, et cetera.

With the following exception and the stipulations identified in Section II.E., the monies as defined above will be placed in the current program year's public facilities category and will be used to fund the project(s) with the highest score in one of the subcategories that was not initially funded. This policy will govern all such monies as defined herein from the FY 1994, FY 1995, FY 1996, FY 1997, FY 1998, FY 1999, and FY 2000 LCDBG Program years as well as subsequent funding cycles, until later amended. One exception is that all funds recaptured by the State from the payback of economic development loans will be placed in an economic development revolving loan fund which will be used to supplement funding for economic development projects. These funds will be subject to the federal regulations regarding use of program income.

These regulations are to become effective upon approval of the Annual Action Plan by HUD and are to remain in force until they are amended or rescinded.

APPENDIX 1

Act 590 of the 1970 Parish Redevelopment Act
Section Q-8

(8) Slum Area - an area in which there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether residential or non-residential, which by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age or obsolescence, inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open space, high density of population and overcrowding, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or an area of open land which, because of its location and/or platting and planning development, for predominantly residential uses, or any combination of such factors is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, or crime, and is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals or welfare.

(i) Blighted Area - an area which by reason of the presence of a substantial number of slum, deteriorated or deteriorating structures, predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility or usefulness, insanitary or unsafe conditions, deterioration of site or other improvements, diversity of ownership, tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land, defective or unusual conditions of title, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the municipality, retards the provision of housing accommodations or constitutes an economic or social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use; but if the area consists of any disaster area referred to in Subsection C (5), it shall constitute a "blighted area."

APPENDIX 2

Eligible LCDBG Activities

Sec.105.(a) Activities assisted under this title may include only—

(1) the acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein) which is

(A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and growth;

(B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities;

(C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development;

(D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this title; or

(E) to be used for other public purposes;

(2) the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements;

(3) Code enforcement in deteriorated or deteriorating areas in which such enforcement, together with public or private improvements or services to be provided, may be expected to arrest the decline of the area;

(4) clearance, demolition, removal, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements (including interim assistance, and financing public or private acquisition for rehabilitation, and rehabilitation, of privately owned properties and including the renovation of closed school buildings);

(5) special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons;

(6) payments to housing owners for losses of rental income incurred in holding for temporary periods housing units to be utilized for the relocation of individuals and families displaced by activities under this title;

(7) disposition (through sale, lease, donation or otherwise) of any real property acquired pursuant to this title or its retention for public purposes;

(8) provisions of public services, including but not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, energy conservation, welfare or recreation needs, if such services have not been provided by the unit of general local government (through funds raised by such unit, or received by such unit from the State in which it is located) during any part of the twelve-month period immediately preceding the date of submission of the statement with respect to which funds are to be made available under this title, and which are to be used for such services, unless the Secretary finds that the discontinuation of such services was the result of events not within the control of the unit of general local government, except that not more than 15 percentum of the amount of any assistance to a unit of general local government (or in the case of nonentitled communities not more than 15 percent statewide) under this title including program income may be used for activities under this paragraph unless such unit of general local government used more than 15 percentum of the assistance received under this title for fiscal year 1982 or fiscal year 1983 for such

activities (excluding any assistance received pursuant to Public Law 98-8), in which case such unit of general local government may use not more than the percentage or amount of such assistance used for such activities for such fiscal year, whichever method of calculation yields the higher amount, and except that of any amount of assistance under this Title (including program income) in each of Fiscal Years 1993 through 1997 to the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles, each such unit of general government may use not more than 25 percent in each such fiscal year for activities under this paragraph;

(9) payment of the non-Federal share required in connection with a Federal grant-in-aid program undertaken as part of activities assisted under this title;

(10) payment of the cost of completing a project funded under title I of the Housing Act of 1949;

(11) relocation payments and assistance for displaced individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and farm operations, when determined by the grantee to be appropriate;

(12) activities necessary:

(A) to develop a comprehensive community development plan, and

(B) to develop a policy-planning-management capacity so that the recipient of assistance under this title may more rationally and effectively:

(i) determine its needs,

(ii) set long-term goals and short-term objectives,

(iii) devise programs and activities to meet these goals and objectives,

(iv) evaluate the progress of such programs in accomplishing these goals and objectives, and

(v) carry out management, coordination, and monitoring of activities necessary for effective planning implementation;

(13) payment of reasonable administrative costs related to establishing and administering federally approved enterprise zones and payment of reasonable administrative costs and carrying charges related to (A) administering the HOME program under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; and (B) the planning and execution of community development and housing activities, including the provision of information and resources to residents of areas in which community development and housing activities are to be concentrated with respect to the planning and execution of such activities, and including the carrying out of activities as described in section 701(e) of the Housing Act of 1954 on the date prior to the date of enactment of Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1981;

(14) provisions of assistance including loans (both interim and long term) and grants for activities which are carried out by public or private nonprofit entities, including:

(A) acquisition of real property;

(B) acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of:

(i) public facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), site improvements, and utilities, and

(ii) commercial or industrial buildings or structures and other commercial or industrial real property improvements; and

(C) planning;

(15) assistance to neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations, local development corporations, nonprofit organizations serving the development needs of the communities in nonentitlement areas, or entities organized under section 301(d) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to carry out a neighborhood revitalization or community economic development energy

conservation project in furtherance of the objectives of section 101(c), and assistance to neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations, or other private or public nonprofit organizations, for the purpose of assisting, as part of neighborhood revitalization or other community development, the development of shared housing opportunities (other than by construction of new facilities) in which elderly families (as defined in section 3(b)(3) of the United States Housing Act of 1937) benefit as a result of living in a dwelling in which the facilities are shared with others in a manner that effectively and efficiently meets the housing needs of the residents and thereby reduces their cost of housing;

(16) activities necessary to the development of energy use strategies related to recipient's development goals, to assure that those goals are achieved with maximum energy efficiency, including items such as—

(A) an analysis of the manner in, and the extent to, which energy conservation objectives will be integrated into local government operations, purchasing and service delivery, capital improvements budgeting, waste management, district heating and cooling, land use planning and zoning, and traffic control, parking, and public transportation functions; and

(B) a statement of the actions the recipient will take to foster energy conservation and the use of renewable energy resources in the private sector, including the enactment and enforcement of local codes and ordinances to encourage or mandate energy conservation or use of renewable energy resources, financial and other assistance to be provided (principally for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons) to make energy conserving improvements to residential structures, and any other proposed energy conservation activities;

(17) provision of assistance to private, for-profit entities, when the assistance is appropriate to carry out an economic development project (that shall minimize, to the extent practicable, displacement of existing businesses and jobs in neighborhoods) that—

(A) creates or retains jobs for low- and moderate-income persons;

(B) prevents or eliminates slums and blight;

(C) meets urgent needs;

(D) creates or retains businesses owned by community residents;

(E) assists businesses that provide goods or services needed by, and affordable to, low- and moderate-income residents; or

(F) provides technical assistance to promote any of the activities under subparagraphs (A) through (E);

(18) the rehabilitation or development of housing assisted under Section 17 of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

(19) provision of technical assistance to public or nonprofit entities to increase the capacity of such entities to carry out eligible neighborhood revitalization or economic development activities, which assistance shall not be considered a planning cost as defined in paragraph (12) or administrative cost as defined in paragraph (13);

(20) housing services, such as housing counseling, in connection with tenant-based rental assistance and affordable housing projects assisted under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, energy auditing, preparation of work specifications, loan processing, inspections, tenant selection, management of tenant-based rental assistance, and other services related to assisting owners, tenants, contractors, and other entities, participating or seeking to participate in housing activities authorized under this section, or under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act;

(21) provision of assistance by recipients under this title to institutions of higher education having a demonstrated capacity to carry out eligible activities under this subsection for carrying out

such activities;

(22)* provision of assistance to public and private organizations, agencies, and other entities (including nonprofit and for-profit entities) to enable such entities to facilitate economic development by—

(A) providing credit (including providing direct loans and loan guarantees, establishing revolving loan funds, and facilitating peer lending programs) for the establishment, stabilization, and expansion of microenterprises;

(B) providing technical assistance, advice, and business support services (including assistance, advice, and support relating to developing business plans, securing funding, conducting marketing, and otherwise engaging in microenterprise activities) to owners of microenterprises and persons developing microenterprises; and

(C) providing general support (such as peer support programs and counseling) to owners of microenterprises and persons developing microenterprises;

(23) activities necessary to make essential repairs and to pay operating expenses necessary to maintain the habitability of housing units acquired through tax foreclosure proceedings in order to prevent abandonment and deterioration of such housing in primarily low- and moderate-income neighborhoods; and

(24)** provision of direct assistance to facilitate and expand home ownership among persons of low and moderate income (except that such assistance shall not be considered a public service for purposes of paragraph (8)) by using such assistance to—

(A) subsidize interest rates and mortgage principal amounts for low- and moderate-income home buyers;

(B) finance the acquisition by low- and moderate-income home buyers of housing that is occupied by the home buyers;

(C) acquire guarantees for mortgage financing obtained by low- and moderate-income home buyers from private lenders (except that amounts received under this title may not be used under this subparagraph to directly guarantee such mortgage financing and grantees under this title may not directly provide such guarantees);

***Section 807(c)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-550, October 28, 1992, added the following:**

**(3) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS. - It is the sense of the Congress that each grantee under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 should reserve 1 percent of any grant amounts the grantee receives in each fiscal year for the purpose of providing assistance under section 105(a)(23) of such act to facilitate economic development through commercial microenterprises.**

****Section 907(b) (2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act provides the following termination for Sec.105(a)(20).**

**(2) TERMINATION. Effective on October 1, 1994 (or October 1, 1995, if the Secretary determines that such later date is necessary to continue to provide home ownership assistance until home ownership assistance is available under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act), section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)) is amended—**

**(A) in paragraph (23), by inserting "and" at the end;**

**(B) in paragraph (24), by striking ,” and" at the end and inserting a period; and**

**(C) by striking paragraph (25).**

(D) provide up to 50 percent of any down payment required from low- or moderate-income home buyer, or

(E) pay reasonable closing costs (normally associated with the purchase of a home) incurred by a low- or moderate-income home buyer; and

(25) lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction, as defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992.

(b) Upon the request of the recipient of assistance under this title, the Secretary may agree to perform administrative services on a reimbursable basis on behalf of such recipient in connection with loans or grants for the rehabilitation of properties as authorized under subsection (a)(4).

(c)(1) In any case in which an assisted activity described in paragraph (14) or (17) of subsection (a) is identified as principally benefitting persons of low and moderate income, such activity shall

(A) be carried out in a neighborhood consisting predominately of persons of low and moderate income and provide services for such persons; or

(B) involve facilities designed for use predominately by persons of low and moderate income; or

(C) involve employment of persons, a majority of whom are persons of low and moderate income.

(2)(A) In any case in which an assisted activity described in subsection (a) is designed to serve an area generally and is clearly designed to meet identified needs of persons of low and moderate income in such area, such activity shall be considered to principally benefit persons of low and moderate income if

(i) not less than 51 percent of the residents of such area are persons of low and moderate income;

(ii) in any metropolitan city or urban county, the area served by such activity is within the highest quartile of all areas within the jurisdiction of such city or county in terms of the degree of concentration of persons of low and moderate income; or

(iii) the assistance for such activity is limited to paying assessments (including any charge made as a condition of obtaining access) levied against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income to recover the capital cost for a public improvement.

(B) The requirements of subparagraph (A) do not prevent the use of assistance under this title for the development, establishment, and operation for not to exceed 2 years after its establishment of a uniform emergency telephone number system if the Secretary determines that--

(i) such system will contribute substantially to the safety of the residents of the area served by such system;

(ii) not less than 51 percent of the use of the system will be by persons of low and moderate income; and

(iii) other Federal funds received by the grantee are not available for the development, establishment, and operation of such system due to the insufficiency of the amount of such funds, the restrictions on the use of such funds, or the prior commitment of such funds for other purposes by the grantee. The percentage of the cost of the development, establishment, and operation of such a system that may be paid from assistance under this title and that is considered to benefit low and moderate income persons is the percentage of the population to be served that is made up of persons of low and moderate income.

(3) Any assisted activity under this title that involves the acquisition or rehabilitation of property to provide housing shall be considered to benefit persons of low and moderate income only to

the extent such housing will, upon completion, be occupied by such persons.

(4) For purposes of subsection (c)(1)(C)—

(A) If any employee resides in, or the assisted activity through which he or she is employed, is located in a census tract that meets the Federal enterprise zone eligibility criteria, the employee shall be presumed to be a person of low- or moderate-income; or

(B) If an employee resides in a census tract where not less than 70 percent of the residents have incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median, the employee shall be presumed to be a person of low- or moderate-income.

(d) TRAINING PROGRAM. The Secretary shall implement, using funds recaptured pursuant to section 119(o), an on-going education and training program for officers and employees of the Department, especially officers and employees of area and other field offices of the Department, who are responsible for monitoring and administering activities pursuant to paragraphs (14), (15), and (17) of subsection (a) for the purposes of ensuring that

(A) such personnel possess a thorough understanding of such activities; and

(B) regulations and guidelines are implemented in a consistent fashion.

(e) GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING AND SELECTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS -

(1) ESTABLISHMENT. - The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, guidelines to assist grant recipients under this title to evaluate and select activities described in section 105(a)(14), (15), and (17) for assistance with grant amounts. The Secretary shall not base a determination of eligibility of the use of funds under this title for such assistance solely on the basis that the recipient fails to achieve one or more of the guidelines' objectives as stated in paragraph (2).

(2) PROJECT COSTS AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS. - The guidelines established under this subsection shall include the following objectives:

(A) The project costs of such activities are reasonable.

(B) To the extent practicable, reasonable financial support has been committed for such activities from non-Federal sources prior to the disbursement of Federal funds.

(C) To the extent practicable, any grant amounts to be provided for such activities do not substantially reduce the amount of non-Federal financial support for the activity.

(D) Such activities are financially feasible.

(E) To the extent practicable, such activities provide not more than a reasonable return on investment to the owner.

(F) To the extent practicable, grant amounts used for the costs of such activities are disbursed on a pro-rata basis with the amounts from other sources.

(3) PUBLIC BENEFIT. - The guidelines established under this subsection shall provide that the public benefit provided by the activity is appropriate relative to the amount of assistance provided with grant amounts under this title.

(f) ASSISTANCE TO THE FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES. - In any case in which an activity described in paragraph (17) of subsection (a) is provided assistance such assistance shall not be limited to activities for which no other forms of assistance are available or could not be accomplished but for that assistance.

(g) MICROENTERPRISE AND SMALL BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS. - In developing program requirements and providing assistance pursuant to paragraph (17) of subsection (A) to a microenterprise or small business, the Secretary shall-

(1) take into account the special needs and limitations arising from the size of the entity; and

(2) not consider training, technical assistance, or other support services costs provided to small businesses or microenterprises or to grantees and subgrantees to develop the capacity to provide such assistance, as a planning cost pursuant to section 105(A)(12) or an administrative cost pursuant to section 105(A)(13).

APPENDIX 3

1999 Median Family Income
By Parish and MSA

| Parish | 1999 Median Family Income | Low/Mod Income* Limit $ | Low Income* Limit $ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acadia | See MSA-Lafayette | | |
| Allen | $ 27,000 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Ascension | See MSA-Baton Rouge | | |
| Assumption | 32,000 | 25,600 | 16,000 |
| Avoyelles | 25,100 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Beauregard | 36,400 | 29,100 | 18,200 |
| Bienville | 31,300 | 25,050 | 15,650 |
| Bossier | See MSA-Shreveport - Bossier City | | |
| Caddo | See MSA-Shreveport - Bossier City | | |
| Calcasieu | See MSA-Lake Charles | | |
| Caldwell | 26,000 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Cameron | 39,000 | 27,500 | 17,200 |
| Catahoula | 25,800 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Claiborne | 27,300 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Concordia | 29,500 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Desoto | 28,400 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| E. Baton Rouge | See MSA-Baton Rouge | | |
| East Carroll | 17,200 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| East Feliciana | 29,600 | 23,700 | 14,800 |
| Evangeline | 25,100 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Franklin | 25,400 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Grant | 29,600 | 23,700 | 14,800 |
| Iberia | 36,400 | 28,100 | 17,550 |
| Iberville | 34,800 | 29,700 | 18,600 |
| Jackson | 29,300 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Jefferson | See MSA-New Orleans | | |
| Jefferson Davis | 27,800 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Lafayette | See MSA-Lafayette | | |
| Lafourche | See MSA-Houma | | |
| LaSalle | 32,100 | 25,700 | 16,050 |
| Lincoln | 37,600 | 30,100 | 18,800 |
| Livingston | See MSA-Baton Rouge | | |
| Madison | 22,000 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Morehouse | 28,300 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Natchitoches | 28,300 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Orleans | See MSA-New Orleans | | |

1999 Median Family Income
By Parish and MSA
(Continued)

| Parish | 1999 Median Family Income | Low/Mod Income* Limit $ | Low Income* Limit $ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ouachita | See MSA-Monroe | | |
| Plaquemines | See MSA-New Orleans | | |
| Pointe Coupee | 28,500 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Rapides | See MSA-Alexandria | | |
| Red River | 28,400 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Richland | 26,400 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Sabine | 27,600 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| St. Bernard | See MSA-New Orleans | | |
| St. Charles | See MSA-New Orleans | | |
| St. Helena | 28,000 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| St. James | 36,300 | 29,050 | 18,150 |
| St. John the Baptist | See MSA-New Orleans | | |
| St. Landry | See MSA-Lafayette | | |
| St. Martin | See MSA-Lafayette | | |
| St. Mary | 33,300 | 26,650 | 16,650 |
| St. Tammany | See MSA-New Orleans | | |
| Tangipahoa | 31,600 | 25,300 | 15,800 |
| Tensas | 20,900 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Terrebonne | See MSA-Houma | | |
| Union | 31,100 | 24,900 | 15,550 |
| Vermilion | 30,900 | 24,700 | 15,450 |
| Vernon | 32,300 | 25,850 | 16,150 |
| Washington | 27,500 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Webster | See MSA-Shreveport-Bossier City | | |
| W.Baton Rouge | See MSA-Baton Rouge | | |
| West Carroll | 25,100 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| West Feliciana | 29,400 | 23,600 | 14,750 |
| Winn | 31,400 | 25,100 | 15,700 |

*For those parishes which have a median family income less than the State nonmetropolitan median family income ($29,500), the low/mod income and the low income limits were based on the State nonmetropolitan median family income.

| MSA-Metropolitan <br> Statistical Areas | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MSA Alexandria, LA1 | 35,500 | 28,400 | 17,750 |
| MSA Baton Rouge, LA2 | 46,000 | 35,850 | 22,400 |
| MSA Houma, LA3 | 34,800 | 27,850 | 17,400 |
| MSA Lafayette, LA4 | 34,400 | 27,500 | 17,200 |
| MSA Lake Charles, LA5 | 41,100 | 32,900 | 20,550 |
| MSA Monroe, LA6 | 36,500 | 29,200 | 18,250 |
| MSA New Orleans, LA7 | 40,400 | 32,300 | 20,200 |
| MSA Shreveport - Bossier City, LA8 | 37,900 | 30,300 | 18,950 |

Footnotes:

1 Includes Rapides Parish only.

2 Includes East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension Parishes.

3 Includes Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes.

4 Includes St. Martin, Lafayette, Acadia and St. Landry Parishes.

5 Includes Calcasieu Parish only.

6 Includes Ouachita Parish only.

7 Includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, and St.Charles Parishes.

8 Includes Caddo, Bossier, and Webster Parishes.

Source: Income limits provided by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, effective January 27, 1999.

# HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

## Strategy Implementation

**Priority #1. Increase homeownership opportunities for first time low, moderate and middle income homebuyers.**

A. Investment Plan

- Category of Resident to be Assisted

  The focus of this priority is to assist persons of low, moderate or middle income in the purchase of their first home. Persons of families targeted by this priority have incomes of between fifty percent of the area median income to incomes equal to the area median income. The “first time homebuyer” qualification is defined as persons who did not have an ownership interest in their principal residence at any time during the previous three years.

- Activities and Programs

  The State sponsors a single family mortgage revenue bond (MRB) program to promote the increase of homeownership opportunities for persons targeted for assistance by this priority. The program is designed to provide below market interest rate loans to qualifying persons and families who might otherwise be unable to qualify for conventional mortgages. HOME Program funds will be made available by the State to assist qualifying low income persons and families with down payments and closing costs to complement the State mortgage revenue bond resources. A portion of HOME funds will also be used to “buy down” the MRB rate to enable eligible lower income families to qualify for financing.

  In 1990, the State adopted a “Cooperative Housing Corporation Law” to offer an alternative to traditional home ownership opportunities. The law provides, among other things, that the capital stock of a cooperative housing corporation is exempt from State tax and that the property owned by a cooperative housing corporation and subject to a proprietary lease is entitled to the State Homestead Exemption.

  The State will support activities during FY 2000 which offer opportunities for low, moderate and middle income persons to achieve home ownership through the cooperative housing vehicle.

  Louisiana Housing Finance Agency offers funding to Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) for the construction of single family affordable housing. An allocation of funding to the CHDO guarantees that MRB funding as well as HOME funds for down payment and closing cost assistance will be available to the CHDO identified low income purchasers of these homes.

- Leveraging Plan

By making HOME funds available for down payment and closing cost assistance for first time, low income home buyers, MRB funds at below market rates will be leveraged. In addition, a portion of HOME Program funds will be used to further buy down the already low MRB rate to enable lower income buyers to be homeowners.

- One Year Goals

The State has established a goal for FY 2000 of enabling one thousand five hundred first time, low, moderate and middle income persons and families to purchase a house through the single family MRB, HOME and CHDO programs provided by the State.

B. Geographic Distribution

Activities to increase first time home ownership opportunities with down payment and closing cost assistance through HOME will be promoted statewide in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. The single family mortgage revenue bond program is administered through the involvement of financial institutions which are accessible statewide. LHFA will seek to expand the number of participating financial institutions in order to increase the number of branch locations accepting mortgage applications throughout the State. New construction of single family homes through the CHDO homeownership program will be limited to rural (non-entitlement areas) only.

C. Service Delivery and Management

The single family mortgage program is administered by Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) through relationships with participating lenders. LHFA does not directly originate mortgage loans. Each financial institution is responsible for processing and originating all mortgage loans in this program.

Procedures are established by LHFA to provide policy guidelines and instructions for the performance of all activities by participating financial institutions. LHFA requires the use of lender documents which are prepared or approved by the Agency in order to assure fairness in the allocation of Agency resources and compliance with state and federal laws. All mortgage loans must meet eligibility criteria which have been established by LHFA. All applications for loans are based on the borrower's eligibility and not on special relationships between a participating lender and a particular real estate broker or developer. A participating lender may not deny a loan to an eligible borrower solely because the borrower is not a depositor or customer of the participating lender. Participating lenders may not limit the availability of mortgage financing by denying an application based on the fact that the applicant does not belong to a specified group of the public such as employees of certain organizations. All applications are accepted and processed on a "first come, first serve" basis. Loans for purchasers of CHDO homes are likewise processed through participating lenders but funded through a separate set-aside of HOME/MRB funds established for that purpose.

LHFA regularly monitors this program directly and through the assistance of a trustee financial institution. All requirements of federal and state laws, rule and regulations applicable to mortgages and mortgage loan transactions, including without limitation, truth-in-lending laws, equal opportunities laws, usury laws, and laws regulating interest on escrow accounts must be complied with by all lenders participating in this program.

HOME funds will be made available to CHDOs to provide up to eighty-five percent of the construction cost of single family dwellings. CHDOs will prequalify low income applicants and will have access to a set-aside of MRB funds with HOME down payment and closing cost assistance to assure affordability and marketability of the units.

The LHFA will widely advertise the MRB program and HOME assistance programs throughout the state. LHFA certified CHDOs will be instrumental in marketing programs in rural areas of the State.

**Priority #2. Increase the supply of decent, safe and sanitary rental housing that is affordable for low, very low and moderate income families.**

A. Investment Plan

- Category of Resident to be Assisted

  Low, very low and moderate income families have the greatest need for affordable rental housing.

- Activities and Programs

  Affordable rental housing opportunities will be provided through the investment of HOME, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and Mortgage Revenue Bond program resources for rehabilitation, reconstruction and/or new construction activities. Selection criteria will be implemented to encourage developers of affordable rental housing to set aside thirty percent or more of the units for households with incomes as low as twenty percent of the area median income. Selection criteria under both HOME and Low Income Housing Tax Credit programs will be tailored to assure that those projects serving the lowest income classes for the longest period of time receive the highest rating in the award of resources.

The State envisions active participation of and partnerships with Rural Development (formerly Farmers Home Administration) and the State Department of Economic Development.

- Leveraging Plan

The State plans to utilize HOME Program funding to provide deferred payment loans secured by a second mortgage for the construction or acquisition/rehabilitation of small and large multifamily rental properties. The HOME funds will be in the form of loans to fill the "gap" needed by the project sponsor to develop the property in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and local requirements. Leveraged funds will include syndication proceeds from Low Income Housing Tax Credits, tax exempt bond proceeds and first mortgage investment by commercial lending institutions or private investors.

The LHFA, as the State credit agency, will continue to make Low Income Housing Tax Credits available to both non-profit and for-profit developers of eligible affordable multifamily properties. In addition, selection criteria for HOME and Low Income Housing Tax Credits will provide points for those projects evidencing maximum funding from other sources.

- One Year Goals

It is anticipated that FY 2000 HOME Program funds for this activity will result in the creation or rehabilitation of over three hundred affordable units for occupancy by low and very low income families.

The goal established for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program is that one thousand rental units will be constructed or rehabilitated this year.

B. Geographic Distribution

All construction, renovation and rehabilitation activities engaged in by the State for low and very low income households through the use of HOME Program funds will be geographically dispersed throughout the nonentitlement areas of the State, with special focus given to rural areas. Awards of taxable and tax-exempt bond financing of multifamily projects and allocations of Low Income Housing Tax Credits will be disbursed on a competitive basis throughout the State as equitably as possible.

C. Service Delivery and Management

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) will be primarily responsible for overseeing the construction, rehabilitation and renovation activities throughout the State. LHFA will administer the HOME program, taxable and tax-exempt bond financed multifamily program and the allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

LHFA will continue to tailor rental housing programs to maximize investment and participation by the private sector and non-profit organizations. Selection criteria will be established for both the HOME and Low Income Housing Tax Credit programs to reflect input from the development community through the public hearing conducted annually in conjunction with the State's Qualified Allocation Plan for Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

HOME funding will be made available for affordable rental housing in the form of a deferred payment loan secured by a second mortgage. First mortgage financing will be identified by the applicant and may include private mortgage financing through commercial lending institutions, FHA, RD (formerly FmHA) or other similar sources of multifamily financing. Repayment of the HOME loan will be deferred pending payoff of the first mortgage as an incentive to participation by the private sector in providing affordable housing. HOME funding will not be made available in excess of fifty percent of the total development costs for rental housing.

Availability of HOME funds for affordable rental housing will be widely advertised throughout the State with technical assistance provided to potential developers through LHFA workshops.

**Priority #3. Rehabilitate substandard housing owned and occupied by low and very low income families.**

A. Investment Plan

- Category of Resident to be Assisted

  The focus of this priority is to assist individuals and families with incomes of sixty percent or below of the area median income that own and occupy substandard housing as their primary residence.

- Activities and Programs

  The State will offer HOME funds on a competitive basis to local governmental units representing nonentitlement areas to provide grant funding for the rehabilitation of substandard housing owned and occupied by eligible low income families. This program shall be designated as the SHARE

(Substandard Housing Assistance for Rural Economies) Grant Program. Selection criteria will be implemented to encourage distribution of grant funds to special needs populations, large families and families with dual employment whose income remains below sixty percent of the area median. Properties must be brought up to Section 8 Housing Quality Standard as well as any local codes or standards which may apply.

- Leveraging Plan

  Selection criteria for the SHARE Grant Program will be implemented that favor those governmental units that provide evidence of commitment for additional sources of funding to be used in conjunction with HOME funds.

- One Year Goals

  The State has established a goal for FY 2000 to rehabilitate at least two hundred low income owner occupied homes through the SHARE Grant Program.

B. Geographic Distribution

The SHARE Grant Program will be made available to local governmental units serving nonentitlement areas throughout the State with selection criteria established to give preference to parishes evidencing the highest poverty levels.

C. Service Delivery and Management

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency will administer the SHARE Grant Program through local governmental units in accordance with a State Recipient Agreement. Applications will be accepted and processed at the local level by the participating governmental unit. The governmental unit will be responsible for evaluation of eligible properties and determination of eligibility of applicants. The actual rehabilitation work and inspections of units will be the responsibility of the governmental unit or their designee. Governmental units will be required to maintain all books and records required in connection with the SHARE Grant Program and to make same available for inspection by the Agency upon request.

LHFA will monitor the State Recipient's performance and compliance with record keeping and HOME program regulations including inspection of any or all rehabilitated units.

**Priority #4. Increase the supply of housing with supportive services for special needs populations (i.e. elderly, physically handicapped, mentally ill, homeless, single parent families).**

A. Investment Plan

- Category of Resident to be Assisted

Persons and families with special needs such as the elderly, persons with physical or mental disabilities, homeless, large families, and single parent families are targeted by this priority. Persons with physical or mental disabilities include those persons who are mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, severely and persistently mentally ill and those persons afflicted with HIV. Very low and low income persons with special needs are specifically included in the category of persons to be assisted.

- Activities and Programs

The State will venture to increase the supply of housing units serving special needs populations through rehabilitation, reconstruction and replacement of existing units and new construction of additional units through development activities funded with the HOME, CDBG, LIHTB and Multi-Family Tax Exempt Programs. The State will also encourage CHDOs and the nonprofit development community to more aggressively pursue 202 and 811 funding.

The State will offer HOME funds through the SHARE Grant Program on a competitive basis to local governmental units with selection criteria which provides incentive for governmental units to rehabilitate home owned and occupied by low income special needs populations.

Selection criteria for both HOME and the LIHTC Program will encourage rental property developers to seek supportive services and sources of funding of such services (i.e., daycare, job counseling, emergency transportation, personal assistance) for tenants.

The State will support and encourage funding applications by any other entity which will assist in the delivery of housing and housing supports services to low and very low income individuals and families.

Supportive assistance for special needs groups is to be provided in FY 2000 from a variety of Federal and State entitlement programs such as Social Security Insurance (SSI), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Medicaid, Aid for Families with Dependent Child (AFDC), and the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The majority of supportive service activities and programs to be provided in FY 2000 will be administered by the Department of Health and

Hospitals and/or the Department of Social Services. Nonprofit organizations will also be instrumental in providing a variety of supportive services to the targeted populations.

- Leveraging Plan

Resources available from the Governor's Office of Women's Services, private nonprofit organizations and the Homeless Trust should leverage additional resources to support the integration of supportive services for special needs populations. HOME and CDBG Program funding for rehabilitation and new construction should also leverage private investment in affordable housing projects providing accommodations for very low income families with special needs.

Available federal resources through entitlement and competitive programs available in FY 2000 will be used in conjunction with State funds to maintain existing programs targeted to assist the special needs population secure and retain housing with the necessary array of supportive services to promote independent living. State funded community awareness and technical assistance programs in FY 2000 are calculated to enhance the nonprofit community's ability to successfully compete for and secure greater federal funding for supportive service housing. Both the HOME and LIHTC Programs will utilize selection criteria which assures that those projects which serve special needs populations and provides accompanying supportive services receive highest rating for the award of funds. Incentive under both programs is also provided for the creation of fully handicap equipped units with occupancy limited to special needs populations.

- One Year Goals

The objective of the State for FY 2000 is to increase the supply of rental housing by providing for the construction or rehabilitation of one hundred units with occupancy limited to special needs population and to encourage the provision of supportive services in connection therewith.

B. Geographic Distribution

HOME funding will be made available on a competitive basis for projects to be located in nonentitlement areas throughout the State. Low Income Housing Tax Credits and multifamily tax exempt financing will be available on a statewide basis including metropolitan and entitlement areas. The State's plan for FY 2000 does not target any specific area of the State in connection with its overall investment plan for this priority.

C. Service Delivery and Management

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency shall take the lead role in advancing affordable housing opportunities for this category of resident. The Department of Social Services, The Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Economic Development, and the Governor's Office of Women's Services will provide significant contributions to the delivery of supportive services.

The majority of supportive service program resources are administered by the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health and Hospitals. The Department of Health and Hospitals operates through a network of regional offices. The Department of Social Services operates through a network of sixty-four parish offices statewide and rehabilitation services offices in nine regional locations.

**Priority #5. Build the capacity of communities to address their housing needs through the creation of partnerships between local governmental units, nonprofit organizations, private lending institutions, for profit developers, and State and Federal governmental units.**

A. Investment Plan

- Category of Resident to be Assisted

  The State envisions that efforts to empower local governmental units, build the capacity of CHDOs and promote community awareness of affordable housing opportunities will be of general public benefit for all income groups and family units, especially for the most needy individuals and households, and the less sophisticated consumer and developer.

- Activities and Programs

  The LHFA, as the lead housing agency for the State, will conduct and sponsor housing seminars and workshops throughout the year for participation by developers, lenders, non-profit groups, local governmental unit and CHDOs on a statewide basis. Workshop and seminar topics will focus upon current Federal and State housing program requirements and initiatives.

  The State will aggressively pursue partnership relationships with local governmental units, Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), colleges, universities and other nonprofit housing and housing service providers to promote the dissemination of information on housing issues to the general public. LHFA programs will be structured to encourage participation by the private sector and to encourage the formation of partnerships between business and nonprofit entities.

- Leveraging Plan

  The State anticipates that this priority will be advanced through the use of HOME program administration funds. HUD contract service providers will also be instrumental in providing technical assistance. It is expected that the housing, academic and foundation communities will contribute substantially to this effort. Due to the competitive nature of LHFA structured housing programs, both for profit developers and commercial lending institutions will be effectual in soliciting participation by governmental units and nonprofit entities.

- One Year Goals

  Generally, the goal of the State is that local governmental units, CHDOs, other nonprofit housing and support service organizations and the general public will be more knowledgeable of affordable housing programs and opportunities by the end of FY 2000. Through the efforts of its lead housing agency, the State intends to accomplish this overall goal by convening a series of conferences, workshops and seminars throughout the year and structuring programs that promote and facilitate the creation of partnerships.

B. Geographic Distribution

The State shall promote this priority throughout the State with emphasis on rural areas.

C. Service Delivery and Management

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency shall be the lead State agency for the delivery and management of the State's efforts to promote partnerships, capacity building and increased community awareness of housing programs and opportunities.

**Resale/Recapture Provisions**

Home buyer Assistance Programs

Home buyer assistance programs will be directed exclusively to low income households or limited equity cooperative associations of low income households seeking to acquire their first homes. Appraisals and/or inspections of all housing units as well as the covenants contained in the second mortgage instruments will be required to evidence the following:

Property Standards: Compliance with Section 8 Housing Quality Standards (HQS) for acquisition and moderate rehabilitation financing and compliance with local code standards, rehab standards and cost-effective energy and effectiveness standards.

Property Value: Not in excess of 203(b) mortgage limits for the type of property being assisted.

Resale/or Recapture Provisions: (a) Resale Option: The model to be used by the State to assure affordability to a subsequent low income home buyer upon resale will be based primarily on the Diminishing Subsidy model referred to in Attachment G of Notice CPD-92-01. Home buyer assistance using the resale option will be in the form of a second mortgage loan. Any prepayment of interest and principal on the HOME financed second mortgage loan will be deposited in a trust account to be dedicated during the period of affordability to subsidize, if needed, the transfer of the unit to a subsequent low-income home buyer. Any amount in trust at the end of the period of affordability will be released to subsidize other HOME qualified activities. The amount of interest deferred each year on the Home funded home buyer assistance loan will be conditioned upon the resale of the unit during the period of affordability to a subsequent low-income home buyer who will use the housing unit as a principal residence.

A "fair return" on investment to an initial buyer of the unit financed with HOME funds will be calculated on the basis of the return on the initial buyer's "equity." "Equity" shall be defined as the sum of the following elements:

- Down payment: The difference between the purchase price and the first mortgage loan reduced by any HOME subsidy.

- Payments of First Mortgage Loan: As the initial buyer pays the first mortgage loan the difference between the purchase price and the first mortgage loan increases. This difference over time reduced by the down payment will constitute the principal payments on the first mortgage loan.

- Sweat Equity: Although a housing unit financed with HOME monies must meet minimum Section 8 HQS Standards, homeowners will be permitted to increase his or her total equity by improvements to a housing unit made by the owner provided that the owner's receipts for such improvements and the value of the improvements are approved by the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency.

Based on the above, a "fair return" on equity will be computed at the lower of three percent per year or the average percentage increase in housing prices from the date the initial buyer purchased the housing unit to the date the housing unit is sold by such initial buyer.

(b) Recapture Option: The recapture option to be used by the State will involve a recapture of the entire amount of the HOME funds loaned at a below market rate to the home owner if the home is sold or refinanced by the low-income household during the period of affordability.

The terms of the home buyer assistance relative to the second mortgage loan (including the requirement that the subsequent purchaser be a low income household) will be contained in both the second mortgage note and the second mortgage.

The forms of the financial assistance to be made available in the home buyer assistance programs will be one or more of the following:

- interest bearing loans
- non-interest bearing loans
- interest subsidies (that leverage other monies)
- deferred payment loans

- Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Program. A pool of HOME funds may be allocated to enable the low income households to become first time home buyers through second mortgage financing of both closing costs and down payment requirements.

- Interest Subsidy Program. A pool of HOME funds may be allocated to reduce the interest rates on mortgages only to satisfy mortgage loan underwriting ratios to enable low income households to qualify for home ownership.

- Vacant/Abandoned Property Program. A pool of HOME funds may be allocated to finance the rehabilitation and acquisition by first time home buyers of vacant and abandoned property acquired or expropriated by local governmental units pursuant to a neighborhood revitalization program sponsored by such governmental unit.

- Cooperative Housing Program. A pool of HOME funds may be allocated to finance the acquisition and rehabilitation of housing units serving as the principal residence of a homeowner, which unit will be owned through cooperative housing associations of low income households.

**Affordability Period**

Affordability requirements for Homeownership Assistance shall be in accordance with the following:

| Homeownership Assistance HOME amount per unit | Minimum period of affordability in years |
|---|---|
| Under $15,000 | 5 |
| $15,000 to $40,000 | 10 |
| Over $40,000 | 15 |

**Affirmative Marketing**

Section 281 of the National Affordable Housing Act (the "Act") requires the State to prescribe procedures acceptable to the Secretary of HUD to establish and oversee a minority outreach program to ensure the inclusion, to the maximum extent possible, of minorities and women, and entities owned by minorities and women, including without limitation, real estate firms, construction firms, appraisal firms, management firms, financial institutions, investment banking firms, underwriters, accountants, and legal firms, in all contracts, entered into by the participating jurisdiction with such persons or entities, public and private, in order to facilitate the activities of the participating jurisdiction to provide affordable housing authorized under the Act or any other federal housing law applicable to such jurisdiction.

1. Utilization Plan

Applicants will be required to submit a Utilization Plan for the participation of Minority Business Enterprises/Women Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) in connection with their project. The Utilization Plan should include a policy statement signed by the applicant's chief executive official (CEO) which describes the applicant's policies and practices for subcontracting and/or for procurement of goods and services.

2. Recommended Methods for the Encouragement of M/WBEs

The following methods are recommended for applicants who wish to encourage the participation of M/WBEs on HOME-assisted contracts:

(i) actively and affirmatively solicit bids for contracts and subcontracts from qualified M/WBEs, including the circulation of solicitations to minority and women contractor associations;

(ii) request a list of M/WBEs from LHFA and solicit bids from M/WBEs on such list;

(iii) attempt to ensure that plan specifications, request for proposals and other documents used to secure proposals for the performance of work or supply of materials will be made available in sufficient time for review by prospective M/WBEs;

(iv) divide, where economically and technically feasible, the work into smaller portions to enhance participation by M/WBEs;

(v) encourage, where economically and technically feasible, the formation of joint ventures, partnerships or other similar arrangements among contractors to enhance participation by M/WBEs;

(vi) consult with and use the services of governmental agencies, their consultants and contractor associations to further the participation of M/WBEs;

(vii) make efforts to ensure that progress payments to M/WBEs are made on a timely basis and with such frequency that undue financial hardship is avoided and other credit requirements are waived or appropriate alternatives developed to encourage M/WBE participation;

(viii) make written solicitations in a timely fashion of M/WBEs listed in the Minority and Women-Owned Business Directory; and

(ix) make timely responses to any advertisements and solicitations provided by M/WBEs.

3. Contract Reporting

All applicants may be requested to submit M/WBE Utilization reports which should include, but are not limited to the following:

(i) the name, address and telephone number of each M/WBE the applicant is using or intends to use;

(ii) a brief description of the contract scope of work to be performed for the applicant by each M/WBE and the scheduled dates for performance;

(iii) a statement of whether the applicant has a written agreement with each M/WBE, and if requested, copies of the agreements the applicant is using or intends to use;

(iv) the actual total cost of the contract, the work performed and the materials provided, scope of work to be performed by each M/WBE for each contract;

(v) the actual amounts of any payments made by the applicant to each M/WBE as of the date the compliance report was submitted; and

(vi) the percentage of total contractors, subcontractors, vendors and suppliers utilized for the project and the total prices for each.

# EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM

## I. Background

The Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP) is contained in subtitle B of title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11371-11378). From funds appropriated for the ESG program, HUD is authorized to make formula grants to states and certain designated local governments (formula grantees). The administering agency for the State of Louisiana's ESGP funding allocation is the Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services. ESGP regulations provide that the State may not carry on program activities with its allocated funds but must make all of its grant amounts available to local recipients. Through the establishment of regional allocation pools, in conjunction with a competitive grant award process, funds will be distributed to state recipients to carry out the purposes of the ESG Program.

## II. Purpose

The Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP) is designed to be the first step in a continuum of assistance to enable homeless individuals and families to move toward independent living as well as to prevent homelessness.

The purpose of the Program is to:

- help improve the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless,
- help make available additional emergency shelters,
- help meet the costs of operating emergency shelters and of providing certain essential social services to homeless individuals, so that homeless persons have access not only to safe and sanitary shelter, but also to the supportive services and other kinds of assistance they need to improve their situations.

The Program is also intended to restrict the increase of homelessness through the funding of preventive programs and activities.

## III. Eligible Applicants

The State of Louisiana has elected to maintain the original program requirement which restricted ESGP state recipients to units of general local government, which may include ESGP formula grantees. Grantee local governments may distribute all or part of their grant amounts to private nonprofit organizations for use in eligible program activities. In an endeavor to target funding assistance to areas of greatest need, eligible applicants are further defined as governmental bodies for all parish jurisdictions and those municipal or city governmental units for jurisdictions with a minimum population of 10,000 according to recent and reliable census figures. Previous recipients of the State’s grant amounts are eligible to apply; however, expenditure patterns will be reviewed in evaluating such applicants' ability to implement and complete program activities on a timely basis.

## IV. **Eligible Activities**

Eligible activities under the Emergency Shelter Grants Program are described in 24 CFR Part 576.21(a) [61 *Federal Register* page 51549; Oct. 2, 1996]. ESGP grant amounts may be used for one or more of the following activities relating to emergency shelter for the homeless:

A. Renovation, major rehabilitation, or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless

B. Provision of essential services to the homeless. Essential services include services concerned with employment, health, drug abuse, and education and may include (but are not limited to):
- assistance in obtaining permanent housing,
- medical and psychological counseling and supervision,
- employment counseling,
- nutritional counseling,
- substance abuse treatment and counseling,
- help in obtaining other federal, state and local assistance,
- other services such as child care, transportation, job placement and job training; and staff salaries necessary to provide the above services.

Grant amounts may be used to provide an essential service only if:
1. The service is
   a. a new service, or
   b. a quantifiable increase in the level of a service above that which the recipient provided with local funds during the twelve months immediately before the receipt of initial grant amounts, and
2. Not more than **30 percent** of ESG Program funding is used for essential service activities.

C. Payment for shelter maintenance, operation (including shelter administration), rent, repairs, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food and furnishings. An amount, not to exceed ten percent of ESG funds, may be spent on staff costs of operations related to emergency shelter.

D. Developing and implementing homeless prevention activities.
Homeless prevention activities are those designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness, including (but not limited to):

- short-term subsidies to defray rent and utility arrearages for families that have received eviction or utility termination notices,
- security deposits or first month's rent to permit a homeless family to move into its own dwelling,
- mediation programs for landlord-tenant disputes,
- legal services programs for the representation of indigent tenants in eviction proceedings,

- payments to prevent foreclosure on a home and other innovative programs and activities designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness.

If grant funds for homeless prevention activities are to be used to assist families that have received eviction notices or notices of termination of utility services, the following conditions must be met:

1. The inability of the family to make the required payments must be the result of a sudden reduction in income;
2. The assistance must be necessary to avoid eviction of the family or termination of services to the family;
3. There must be a reasonable prospect that the family will be able to resume payments within a reasonable period of time (this "reasonable period of time" means a time period determined reasonable by the ESGP grantee and applied consistently to all recipients); and
4. The assistance must not supplant funding for preexisting homeless prevention activities from any other sources.

Note: the references to "family" in the above conditions include one person families.

A proposed project may include homeless prevention activities only as an adjunct to other eligible activities (rehabilitation, operations, essential services). Thus a city or parish applying for ESGP funds on behalf of several nonprofit organizations serving the homeless in its jurisdiction may include homeless prevention activities in the application either as a part of a proposed project or as a separate project within the proposal.

E. Administrative Costs: Up to five percent of any ESGP annual grant may be used for administrative purposes. In accordance with Program requirements, Louisiana shall share the ESGP administrative allowance with local governments funded by the State.

## V. Proposed Method of Funds Distribution

Beginning with its FY 1992 ESG Program, the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) has been utilizing a geographic allocation formula in the distribution of the State's ESG funding DSS proposes to continue the use of a geographic allocation formula in the distribution of ESG funding to ensure that each region of the State is allotted a specified minimum of State ESG grant assistance for eligible ESGP projects. Regional allocations for the State's FY 2000 ESG Program have been formulated based on factors for low income populations in the parishes of each region according to recent U.S. Census Bureau data. [Refer to the State map on page 24 which indicates boundaries and inclusive parishes for the ten State regions utilized by the ESG Program.] Within each region, grant distribution shall be conducted through a competitive grant award process.

The following chart lists the allocation factors and amounts for each region for the FY 2000 State ESG Program:

| | Allocation Factor | | Allocation |
|---|---|---|---|
| *FY 2000 ESGP Funds for Distribution: $1,541,446* | | | |
| Region I New Orleans | .1572303 | $ | 242,362 |
| Region II | .1120504 | | 172,720 |
| Region III | .0698830 | | 107,721 |
| Region IV | .1522066 | | 234,618 |
| Region V | .0531705 | | 81,959 |
| Region VI | .0764176 | | 117,794 |
| Region VII | .1248105 | | 192,389 |
| Region VIII | .0985996 | | 151,986 |
| Region IX | .0746534 | | 115,074 |
| Region X | .0809781 | | 124,823 |
| | | | 1,541,446 |
| State Administration | | | 41,554 |
| FY 2000 State ESGP Allocation | | $ | 1,583,000 |

Regional funding amounts for which applications are not received shall be subject to statewide competitive award to applicants from other regions and/or shall be reallocated among other regions in accordance with formulations consistent with the above factors.

In accordance with program policies, the State DSS will distribute ESGP funds to units of general local government which may make all or part of grant amounts available to private nonprofit organizations for use in eligible activities. DSS shall define eligible applicants as units of general local government for all parish jurisdictions and those municipal or city governmental units for jurisdictions with a minimum population of 10,000 according to recent census figures. Application packages, including grant application requirements and deadline for submittal, shall be issued by mail to the chief elected official of each eligible unit of general local government.

Grant awards shall be for a **minimum** of $10,000. Applicable grant maximums are as follows:

- Individual grant awards to applicant jurisdictions of less than 49,000 population shall not exceed $50,000.

- For a jurisdiction of over 49,000 population, the maximum grant award shall not exceed the ESGP allocation for that jurisdiction's respective region.

Grant specifications, minimum and maximums awards may be changed at DSS's discretion in consideration of individual applicant's needs, total program funding requests, and available funding. DSS reserves the right to negotiate the final grant amounts, component projects, and local match with all applicants to ensure judicious use of program funds. Program applications must meet State ESGP requirements and must demonstrate the means to assure compliance if the proposal is selected for funding. If, in the determination of DSS, an application fails to meet program purposes and standards, even if such application is the only eligible proposal submitted from a region or subregion, such application may be rejected *in toto*, or the proposed project(s) may be subject to alterations as deemed necessary by DSS to meet appropriate program standards.

Proposals accepted for review will be rated on a comparative, project specific, basis. Proposal evaluation will be based on information provided in grant applications. Recipients of grant amounts will be determined in accordance with the following selection criteria:

- Nature and extent of unmet needs in the applicant's jurisdiction as demonstrated by data supplied by applicant including sources of information (studies done, inventory of existing shelters, their use and capacity, estimates by applicant and homeless providers of additional shelter beds needed, reliable surrogates for homeless need including local unemployment data, welfare statistics, and unique local circumstances) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 40 points

- The extent to which proposed activities will address needs for housing and supportive services and/or complete the development of a comprehensive system of services which will provide a continuum of care to assist homeless persons to achieve independent living . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 30 points

- The ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities promptly . . . . . . . .15 points

- Coordination of the proposed project(s) with available community resources, so as to be able to match the needs of homeless persons with appropriate supportive services and assistance ........................................................................................................ 15 points

Elements of the above criteria include:

- Methodology and time frame to implement proposed activities
- Specificity of proposed activities and reasonableness of cost estimates
- Experience of project sponsor(s) in provision of services for homeless persons or in similar service activities
- Fiscal accountability and financial responsibility of project sponsor(s)
- Capability to provide required matching funds (when applicable)
  For previous recipients of State grant amounts, expenditure patterns will be reviewed to evaluate such applicants' ability to implement and complete program activities on a timely basis. An applicant may be disqualified from receiving an award if evaluation of prior expenditure patterns indicates inability to utilize program assistance on a timely basis.

Funding awards shall be based on evaluation and ranking of individual project proposals. DSS reserves the right to negotiate the final grant amounts and local match with all applicants to ensure judicious use of these funds.

DSS proposes to use five percent of the State's Fiscal Year 2000 ESGP allocation for administrative purposes. This administrative allowance will be shared with local governments receiving ESGP funds in the amounts and proportions as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Estimated FY 2000 ESGP State Allocation: | $1,583,000 |
| Administrative Allowance @ 5% of $1,580,000 = | $ 79,150 |
| State share for administering ESGP assistance = | $ 41,554 |
| Local governments share for grant administration: | $ 37,596 |

After deduction of the State's administrative share ($41,554) from the 2000 ESGP allocation ($1,583,000), the amount remaining for distribution to local government recipients shall be $1,541,446. Of this $1,541,446 amount, up to $37,596 or 2.439 percent shall be available for administrative costs of local governments. Local government grantees may at their option elect to use 2.439 percent of grant funding for administrative purposes or may allocate all grant amounts for eligible program activities. If an administrative share is requested, the local government may include in its payment requests an administrative rate of not more than 2.5 percent calculated on invoiced categorical costs.

In accordance with program provisions, State ESGP recipients will be allowed to budget a maximum of 30 percent of grant funding for essential services and a separate maximum of 30 percent of grant funds for homeless prevention. A total therefore of up to 60 percent of ESGP funds may be allocated for both essential services and homeless prevention activities, subject to the thirty percent cap applicable to each of these program categories.

Recipients shall be required to secure matching funds in an amount at least equal to its ESGP grant amount except for those grant amounts awarded from the first $100,000 of the State's allocation. With respect to this first $100,000 which is exempt from matching funds requirements, the State DSS will pass on this benefit to the recipient local government(s), and/or subrecipient(s), which shall be determined by DSS to have the least capability to provide the required matching funds based on information submitted in grant applications or obtained from subsequent program evaluations. For those grant amounts which remain subject to matching funds requirements, the value of donated materials and buildings, voluntary activities and other in-kind contributions may be included with "hard cash" amounts in the calculation of matching funds. A local government grantee may comply with this requirement by providing the matching funds itself, or through provision by nonprofit recipients.

State ESGP recipients shall certify to compliance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements including the safeguarding and confidentiality of client records concerning victims of family violence.

Table 26 identifies those local governmental units which are eligible to apply for ESGP funds.

TABLE 26

Application Distribution List
FY 2000 State Emergency Shelter Grants Program

## *Units of General Local Government*

City Governments (10,000+ population)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abbeville | Crowley | Houma** | Morgan City | Shreveport |
| Alexandria | DeRidder | Jennings | Natchitoches | Slidell |
| Baker | Eunice | Kenner | New Iberia | Sulphur |
| Bastrop | Franklin | Lafayette*** | New Orleans | Thibodaux |
| Baton Rouge* | Gretna | Lake Charles | Opelousas | Ville Platte |
| Bogalusa | Hammond | Minden | Pineville | West Monroe |
| Bossier City | Harahan | Monroe | Ruston | Westwego |

Parish Governments

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acadia | E. Baton Rouge* | Madison | St. Landry |
| Allen | East Carroll | Morehouse | St. Martin |
| Ascension | East Feliciana | Natchitoches | St. Mary |
| Assumption | Evangeline | Orleans | St. Tammany |
| Avoyelles | Franklin | Ouachita | Tangipahoa |
| Beauregard | Grant | Plaquemine | Tensas |
| Bienville | Iberia | Pointe Coupee | Terrebonne** |
| Bossier | Iberville | Rapides | Union |
| Caddo | Jackson | Red River | Vermilion |
| Calcasieu | Jefferson | Richland | Vernon |
| Caldwell | Jefferson Davis | Sabine | Washington |
| Cameron | Lafayette*** | St. Bernard | Webster |
| Catahoula | Lafourche | St. Charles | West Baton Rouge |
| Claiborne | LaSalle | St. Helena | West Carroll |
| Concordia | Lincoln | St. James | West Feliciana |
| DeSoto | Livingston | St. John | Winn |

* Single governmental unit for City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge

** Consolidated Government for Parish of Terrebonne/City of Houma

*** Consolidated Government for Parish of Lafayette/City of Lafayette

\+ Orleans Parish governing body, Parish Commission Council, includes Mayor of City of New Orleans among officers

## HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) PROGRAM

The HOPWA program was authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901), as amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-550, approved October 28, 1992). Funds were appropriated in FY 1992 and for subsequent years. It provides grant funds to state and local governments to devise long-term, comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of low-income people living with AIDS. Funds are available under HOPWA either through "entitlement grants" or "competitive grants". The state of Louisiana began receiving HOPWA funds under the entitlement grant formula in 1994.

The program is governed by the HOPWA Final Rule, 24 CFR Part 574, as amended, and the Consolidation Submissions for Community Planning and Development Programs, Final Rule 24 CFR Part 91, as amended.

In order to be eligible for a HOPWA entitlement grant, a state must have more than 1,500 cumulative cases of people living with AIDS in the areas of the State that are outside of the eligible metropolitan statistical area (EMSA) and have an approved Consolidated Plan. According to the Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report for May 28, 1999, there were 11,473 cumulative cases of AIDS in Louisiana. The State of Louisiana cumulative AIDS cases, excluding Region I (6,371 cases) - the New Orleans EMSA totals 5,102. The Office of Public Health has been providing surveillance of AIDS cases since 1981. The State also has an approved Consolidated Plan.

### HOPWA Priorities

Since receiving Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) initial grant funds in 1994, the State of Louisiana is committed to providing critically needed housing and services to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA is the only federal program targeted specifically to meet the housing needs of people with HIV/AIDS; it was established within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990.

Priority #1. To provide low-income persons with HIV/AIDS and their families with an increased supply of accessible, safe, decent and dignified living opportunities with integrated support services.

Objectives:

1. To fund at least one HIV/AIDS residential facility in eight of the nine DHH Regions of the State. (This would exclude the New Orleans Region I area.)

2. To fund at least one AIDS Services/Community Based Organization in eight of the nine regions of the State, to provide short-term emergency rent, mortgage and utility assistance.

Priority #2. To continue to collaborate and coordinate the HIV/AIDS Program housing and supportive services through the use of HOPWA and Ryan White Title II CARE Act funds.

Objectives:
1. It is important that the HOPWA and Ryan White programs be coordinated, especially to the extent that the State of Louisiana can use the relatively scarce HOPWA funds to provide housing itself and to coordinate with the larger Ryan White Title II program to provide services.

2. To use the Ryan White Title II Louisiana Needs Assessment housing analysis to justify the priority setting of the use of both HOPWA and Ryan White housing assistance for Louisiana.

3. To use the Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need (SCSN) regarding the needs of HIV–infected individuals living in the State of Louisiana through a collaborative effort from all Ryan White CARE Act Titles and other interested parties.

Priority #3. To build the capacity of Louisiana HIV/AIDS communities to define and address their affordable housing needs.

Objectives:
1. To encourage constituency involvement of HUD Program grantees (CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA) including State and local governments, AIDS services organizations, community based organizations, finance agencies, affordable housing agencies, and public housing authorities that develop, provide or coordinate services for persons receiving housing assistance, as well as advocates and consumers.

2. To continue to encourage active participation with the Louisiana Interagency Action Council for the Homelessness to insure that services are provided in a effective, comprehensive and coordinated manner utilizing a range of service options. To improve the delivery of supportive services through the confidential dissemination of information on a client. This also includes the development of a team approach of case management through shared information systems Statewide.

3. To improve the delivery of supportive services through the confidential dissemination of information on a client. This also includes the development of a team approach of case management through shared information systems Statewide.

With the development of new treatment protocols, mortality rates for persons living with AIDS are plummeting across the United States. Many persons living with AIDS with access to these treatments are beginning to address issues of living relatively long, productive and healthy lives. Access to primary medical care should be the priority of all HIV/AIDS systems of care. The emphasis of care and treatment must shift from an emphasis on single-disease and single-person programs to full spectrum, family oriented support programs. A successful HIV/AIDS system of care will incorporate all the components of health and social service care that affects a consumer's life.

Traditionally, HIV/AIDS case management has been provided by community-based organizations or AIDS service organizations using a social work model providing for the psychosocial need of persons living with AIDS. Many rural communities have also provided nurse case management through their local health departments using public health nurses.

The new model of case management is care coordination provided by a care team and includes all the components required to coordinate care for someone with HIV/AIDS. The care team can include not only the case manager but the clinician, a pharmacist, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, an advocate, a mental health counselor, a substance abuse counselor, and other professional people based on the needs of the client. The new model calls for identifying the activities of care coordination and finding the most effective and efficient ways to provide those activities.

With a team approach, no one agency is required to develop all the necessary resources to assist the client's greater needs. Multiple agencies can contribute resources and share the burden via this team model, but, more important, the team approach can provide a more integrated approach to the overall system of care and a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of the client.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Office of Public Health (OPH), HIV/AIDS Program (HAP) intends to apply for the $763,000 formula allocation for FY 2000 HOPWA funds and to serve as recipient of all non-competitive HOPWA funds for the State of Louisiana (this includes the entire state with the exceptions of Region 1 - New Orleans EMSA and Region II – Baton Rouge EMSA). The HIV/AIDS Program will allocate the FY 2000 HOPWA funds to eight of the nine Department of Health and Hospitals statewide Regional Consortiums.

The HIV/AIDS Program has primary responsibility for overseeing the state's response to the AIDS epidemic. The HIV/AIDS Program is composed of three sections, Services, Surveillance, and Prevention.

The Services section is responsible for overseeing the needs of HIV infected persons. The state's systems for providing for the medical and social needs for persons with HIV infection are complex, but briefly, include a statewide network of ambulatory care clinics (operated by LSU Division of Health Care Services) to provide medical care, a statewide HIV formulary to provide medications to patients who do not have insurance to pay for them, and a statewide network of providers of Home Health, Hospice, Housing Opportunities, and Social Services (e.g. legal advocacy, rental and utility assistance). Patients who are identified as HIV infected are given access to these services through caseworkers working in either the main AIDS services organizations in each region of the state (which in nearly all cases are funded both to carry out prevention activities and to provide social services) or through caseworkers working in the ambulatory care clinics.

The Surveillance section is responsible for tracking the AIDS epidemic and maintaining statistics on HIV infection and AIDS so that policy makers, health care providers, community groups, and the general public can make informed decisions in responding to the epidemic. The statistics include detailed aggregate information on persons with AIDS, information on prevalence of HIV infection, and information on behaviors that put people at risk for HIV infection. This information is collected, analyzed, interpreted, and distributed to interested persons.

The Prevention section is responsible for prevention activities which include: provision of HIV Prevention Counseling and Testing and Partner Notification in over three hundred sites; distribution of approximately 9 million condoms annually through private and public agencies; provision of technical assistance and funding to community based organizations in order to provide street and community outreach, HIV Prevention counseling and testing, changing drug environments, peer education programs, needle availability, and the Louisiana HIV/AIDS and STD Hotline.

The State of Louisiana does not have a match requirement for the HOPWA Program. However, HOPWA funds have been used by project sponsors as a match to leverage other HUD programs with specific references to persons with AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS Program has solicited input from the statewide Regional Consortiums, AIDS services/community based organizations, residential facilities and people living with AIDS regarding the allocation of the 2000 HOPWA funds. See the attached list of the Department of Health and Hospitals Administrative Regions for 2000. It was decided that the seven HIV/AIDS residential facilities in eight different regions of the State will be allocated approximately fifty percent of the HOPWA funds. These HOPWA funds will be allocated through a competitive Louisiana HIV/AIDS Residential Facilities Solicitation of Application process. These funds are for new construction, renovation, rehabilitation, acquisition, conversion, lease and repairs of facilities or the purchase of capital equipment. Seven residential facilities are currently in operation around the State. Region III has successfully acquired four pre-existing buildings to renovate and operate as South Louisiana Human Resources, which will include a five bed residential facility, office space, a clothing and food pantry. South Louisiana Human Resources has entered into a contract with a construction firm to provide substantial renovation of the project. Region IX is the only region that does not have a residential facility. See the attached list of Louisiana HIV/AIDS Residential Facilities by regions.

The remaining fifty percent of HOPWA funds will be allocated through a Request for Proposal (RFP) through the Ryan White Title II Regional Consortia (this includes the entire state excluding Region I - the New Orleans EMSA). This coordinated effort was developed to insure the efficient use of both HOPWA and Ryan White Title II funds.

**Needs Statement**

In the United States, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is no longer a disease affecting primarily gay men. The fastest growing AIDS populations are women, young adults, people of color, people with histories of substance abuse and/or mental illness, and people from rural areas of the country. The changing face of the epidemic implies a need for a shift in services, approach and education.

The focus of HIV/AIDS housing providers has shifted from assisting people at the end of their lives to assisting them with transition to living with AIDS. Some residents have begun to work or thinking about the possibility of going back to work. In the past there was a need for separate programs; people wit HIV/AIDS were not being treated, and were being refused access to existing programs. Now that education has made some significant advances, it is time to reintegrate HIV/AIDS programs back into social programs for care and services. AIDS can no longer be separated out; it must be integrated into every aspect of our social reality. A holistic approach to treatment is now warranted. There are already programs for racial, cultural, and ethnic minorities, women, the homeless, the mentally disabled, the physically disabled, and others.

The primary source of housing, support services, and health care for low-income people in the United States is the federal government. According to *Rural AIDS Housing*, to ensure the viability of subsidized housing, housing authorities and other providers are looking at a range of strategies for increasing revenue, including raising tenants' rents. In most communities, however, incomes of subsidized housing residents are increasing minimally, at best. And although the U. S. economy is as strong as it's ever been, very few resources from the private sector are being directed toward the creation of housing affordable to the working poor, special needs populations, and households with extremely low incomes. The lack of affordable housing is an acute crisis within a larger crisis of HIV/AIDS.

Each year the State of Louisiana is faced with the task of distributing the funds it receives from the federal government AIDS-related programs. In every community in every parish has a resident that is either HIV-positive or diagnosed with AIDS, and therefore, each community has some degree of need for AIDS program funding.

The *National AIDS Strategy* established national goals to end the epidemic of HIV and AIDS and ensure that all people living with HIV have access to services, from health care to housing and supportive services, that are affordable, of high quality, and responsive to there needs. Without stable housing a person living with HIV has diminished access to care and services and a diminished opportunity to live a productive life.

Unlike other populations with special housing needs, the housing needs of people with AIDS change as the disease progresses. Thus, throughout the progression of the disease, the ability to find affordable housing and to remain in one's home is a constant stress for persons who are HIV infected. The number one priority for the State is to provide residential housing for persons with AIDS, and secondly to provide clients with short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance payments. As health diminishes, persons living with HIV/AIDS experience significant need for ancillary and supportive services.

## Eligible Activities

Housing Opportunities for Person with AIDS (HOPWA) funds can be used for the following activities:

1. Housing information services including, but not limited to, counseling, information, and referral services to assist eligible individuals to locate, acquire, finance and maintain housing. This may also include fair housing counseling for eligible persons who may encounter discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origins,

familial status, or handicap;

2. Resource identification to establish, coordinate and develop housing assistance resources for eligible persons (including conducting preliminary research and making expenditures necessary to determine the feasibility of specific housing-related initiatives);

3. Acquisition, rehabilitation, conversion, lease, and repair of facilities to provide housing and services;

4. New construction (for single room occupancy (SRO) dwellings and community residences only);

5. Project - or tenant-based rental assistance, including assistance for shared housing arrangement;

6. Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility payments to prevent the homelessness of tenant or mortgagor of a dwelling;

7. Supportive services including, but not limited to, health, mental health, assessment, permanent housing placement, drug and alcohol abuse treatment and counseling, day care, personal assistance, nutritional services, intensive care when required, and assistance in gaining access to local, State and Federal government benefits and services, except that health services may only be proved to individuals with HIV/AIDS and not to family members of these individuals;

8. Operating costs for housing including maintenance, security, operation, insurance, utilities, furnishings, equipment, supplies, and other incidental costs;

9. Technical assistance in establishing and operating a community residence, including planning and other pre-development or pre-construction expenses and including, but not limited to, costs relating to community outreach and educational activities regarding AIDS or related diseases for persons residing in proximity to the community residence;

10. Administrative expenses: (i) Each grantee may use not more than three percent of the grant amount for its own administrative costs related to administering grant amounts and allocating such amounts to project sponsors; and (ii) Each project sponsor receiving amounts from grants made under this program may use not more than seven percent of the amounts received for its own administrative cost related to carry out eligible activities under this section, including cost of staff necessary to care out eligible activities; and

11. For competitive grants only, any other activity proposed by the applicant and approved by HUD.

The use and distribution of Fiscal Year 2000 HOPWA funds is summarized as follows:

HOPWA Funding Projections for 2000

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Funding | $763,000 |
| Admin. Cost | - 22,890 (3%) |
| Total Funds Available | $740,110 |
| | |
| Residential Facilities | $370,055 (50%) |
| Rental Assistance | $370,055 (50%) |

## COMMENTS RECEIVED

A summary of each comment received on the housing and community development needs of the State is shown in bold type and is followed by a summarized response to each comment. Although several comments were received which did not relate to the needs of the State or were received after the deadline for the submittal of comments, responses to those comments are also included therein.

* **Two comments from staff with public housing authorities expressed dissatisfaction with the development of rental projects in rural areas and felt that public housing authorities should have more control over the location of these facilities within their service areas. They also complained that the amount of time between their contact with the market analyst and the actual completion of the project was too long (up to three years.)**

It was stated that both HOME funds and Low Income Housing Tax Credits are offered on a competitive basis for the development of rental housing but that a market study by an independent market analyst is required in order to assure that sufficient need for additional rental housing in the area exists. The market study must include an occupancy statement with respect to other rental projects located in the market areas and must further contain a certification as to the status of the local public housing agency's waiting list of eligible tenants and the percentage of vacancies in the habitable units of the public housing authority. In addition, the market analyst is required to certify that the local offices of both HUD and United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development have been contacted to verify that the existing multifamily housing developments subsidized, insured, funded or sponsored by such agencies will not be materially adversely effected by the additional units proposed by the project. Selection criteria has been implemented to encourage developers to execute a referral agreement with the local housing authority pursuant to which the developer agrees to rent low income units to households at the top of the public housing authority's waiting list.

Due to current funding cycles and the Agency's use of multiple resources in the leveraging of federal dollars, forward commitments must be issued. For example, a developer will apply in one year for a forward commitment of funding for the next year (second year). By the end of the second year, he need only have expended ten percent of the development cost in order to carry forward all allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits and would have until the end of the subsequent year (third year) to complete the project.

* **One person representing a Community Housing Development Organization requested that a greater percentage of funding be offered in rural parishes and that near elderly and elderly low income households be targeted. Another comment offered by that person was to request ownership opportunities for single head of household families.**

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA), as administrator of the HOME Investment Partnerships program for the State of Louisiana, currently provides HOME funding under the

Affordable Rental Housing Program and the Substandard Housing Assistance for Rural Economies (SHARE) Grant Program exclusively for rural areas (non-entitled areas). Of the HOME funds administered by the LHFA, only funds used in conjunction with Mortgage Revenue Bonds for first-time homebuyers are available for use in entitled areas (Parishes of East Baton Rouge [with the exception of Baker and Zachary], Jefferson, Orleans, Terrebonne, and St. Charles and the cities of Lafayette, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Shreveport, Alexandria, Monroe and Kenner).

The LHFA has implemented selection criteria within the HOME Affordable Rental Housing Program and Low Income Housing Tax Credits Program to provide incentive for the development of projects which provide for all or a portion of units to be restricted to occupancy by special needs populations (elderly, homeless, mentally or physically handicapped). Selection criteria utilized in the allocation of SHARE Grant Funding favored those local governmental units which committed to rehabilitate at least five homes owned and occupied by special needs identified as elderly/handicapped, physically or mentally disabled, HIV/AIDS, single parent families and large families of five or more.

* **A comment was made that additional transitional housing is needed.**

A meeting will be convened at the HUD Area Office in New Orleans for the purpose of discussing the development of a model program to create additional units of transitional housing. Participants will include HUD officials, mental health representatives, and staff with the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Hospitals, and the Louisiana State Community Housing Development Organizations Association.

* **One person with a non-profit organization stated that the State needs to offer special expedited funding for areas evidencing disasters or allow for emergency repairs.**

Due to restrictions imposed by the State on programs funded through HOME, at least a six month delay in the allocation of funds is required in order to implement a new program to address the specific needs of the disaster stricken area. The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency is currently attempting to address this problem at the State level.

Several years ago a percentage of the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation funds received by a local governing body could be utilized for emergency repairs. The emergency repairs program did not prove to be feasible or in keeping with the primary objective of the State's housing rehabilitation program and was therefore discontinued.

* **One mayor was concerned that no housing was being developed in his jurisdiction.**

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency indicated that he should contact a private for-profit or non-profit developer in his area to discuss housing needs and have that developer contact the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency for technical assistance in determining which programs could be accessed to address those needs.

* **Two comments were received from public housing authority officials. (1) The comments were that the local housing authorities should have greater input in the market survey that is conducted when an application is submitted for a HOME program. A certification that the local public housing authority has been consulted and is in agreement should be required in the initial application. Public housing authorities should be consulted about the future needs and plans to address the needs of low income housing in the area. (2) If the market survey which is conducted parish-wide indicates that the greatest housing need is in the parish, then the housing units should be built in the parish, not in the largest city in the parish. (3) The public housing authority should be given the first opportunity to become the management agency for the new housing units.**

Home funds and Low Income Housing Tax Credits are offered on a competitive basis for the development of rental housing. A market study by an independent market analyst is required in order to assure that sufficient need for additional rental housing in the area exists. The market study must include an occupancy statement with respect to other rental projects located in the market area and must further contain a certification as to the status of the local public housing agency's waiting list of eligible tenants and the percentage of vacancies in the habitable units of the public housing authority. In addition, the market analyst is required to certify that the local offices of both HUD and United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development have been contacted to verify that the existing multifamily housing developments subsidized, insured, funded or sponsored by such agencies will not be materially adversely effected by the additional units proposed by the project. Selection criteria has been implemented to encourage developers to execute a referral agreement with the local housing authority pursuant to which the developer agrees to rent low income units to households at the top of the public housing authority's waiting list.

By definition, in rural areas or municipalities with a total population of less than 75,000, the market area must encompass at least the parish within which the project is to be located. In municipalities of 75,000 or more, the market area may encompass only the municipality if the housing consultant certifies that such a limitation is appropriate in view of demographic and mobility factors.

The developer of a rental housing project designates the management company. The track record of the management company is one of the factors used by syndicators to determine the dollar value for purchase of the Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Maximizing the amount of capital available through syndication is a necessity in the development of affordable housing.

Due to current funding cycles and the Agency's use of multiple resources in the leveraging of federal dollars, forward commitments must be issued. For example, a developer will apply in one year for a forward commitment of funding for the next year (second year). By the end of the second year, he need only have expended ten percent of the development cost in order to carry forward an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credit and would have until the end of the subsequent year (third year) to complete the project.

* **One mayor commented that his town needed grant monies for housing rehabilitation, extension of water and sewer lines, and a new water well.**

  He was advised that all of these items are eligible under the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program.

* **A comment was received from the representative of a CHDO requesting the inclusion in the Consolidated Plan of a provision for HUD Section 202, 811, 203K, and 232 housing programs. It was also requested that Louisiana Community Development Block Grant funds be made available for site acquisition to fulfill the housing goals of a CHDO for the development of affordable rental housing. It was further stated that most low and very low income families do not have adequate credit to purchase a home without low term credit repair solutions; most poor families need rental housing opportunities that are both available and affordable.**

  The Section 202, 811, 203K, and 232 housing programs are all consistent with the Consolidated Plan related to the alleviation of housing problems in non-entitled areas. While Louisiana Community Development Block Grant funds for site acquisition and development costs are not a priority under its housing program category, these costs are an eligible reimbursable costs under the HOME Affordable Rental Housing, CHDO Affordable Rental Housing, and CHDO Homeownership Programs. Funding under all programs are available on a competitive basis during announced funding rounds. (Since site acquisition and development costs are eligible under the aforementioned Programs administered by the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, it is felt that additional funds from the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program do not need to be set-aside for this purpose.)

* **One comment was received from a state agency requesting that the dually diagnosed be added as a special needs group and since 32.37 percent of the homeless are estimated to be substance abusers, this group should also be added as a special needs group (recovered substance abusers).**

  The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency defines “special needs” populations based on the following definition. In the event that dually diagnosed individuals meet the criteria as set forth below, they would be considered as special needs.

  HANDICAPPED HOUSEHOLD: A household composed of one or more persons at least one of whom is considered to have a physical, mental or emotional impairment which (i) is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (ii) substantially impedes the ability to live independently and (iii) is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions. A person shall be considered handicapped if (a) such person has a developmental disability as defined in Section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 60001(7) or (b) such person is infected with the human acquired immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who is disabled as a result of infection with the HIV or (c) such person has a severe and persistent mental or emotional impairment that seriously limits his or her ability to live independently, and whose impairment could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

* **A comment was submitted by an administrative consultant regarding the local survey methodology which must be followed by local governing bodies applying for Louisiana Community Development (LCDBG) funds. It was erroneously stated that the FY 1998 and FY 1999 Annual Action Plans did not contain the methodology which must be followed for local surveys.**

The following explanation was given in response to this comment.

Prior to the FY 1998 – FY 1999 LCDBG application cycle, applicants were allowed to conduct a household survey for determining low/moderate income benefit based on either an average family size of four persons or a sliding scale based on the actual number of persons in the household. Prior to the preparation of the proposed FY 1998 Consolidated Annual Action Plan, staff in the Office of Community Development discussed the survey methodology with staff in the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and became aware that the federal guidelines require household surveys to be conducted in accordance with the sliding scale based on the actual number of persons in the household. Conducting the survey based on an average family size is not an option which is allowed by HUD. For that reason the survey procedures were revised beginning with the FY 1998 LCDBG Program to reflect full compliance with the federal guidelines.

The revised survey methodology was included in the proposed FY 1998 Consolidated Annual Action Plan; comments on the proposed plan could be submitted during the period of November 24, 1997, and December 31, 1997. The revised survey methodology was also included in the final FY 1998 Consolidated Annual Action Plan as submitted to HUD and in the FY 1998 - FY 1999 LCDBG Application Package for housing, public facilities, and demonstrated needs. The revised methodology and reasons for the revisions were explained in detail at the FY 1998 - FY 1999 LCDBG Application workshops held on March 11, and March 12, 1998.

The survey methodology in the FY 1999 Consolidated Annual Action Plan was synonymous with the methodology utilized for the FY 1998 LCDBG Program.

* **A comment was received from a non-profit organization stating the following needs: a need for persons with AIDS to be retrained to enter the work force, a need to evaluate**

**methods to partnership or match funds to provide for down payment assistance for those persons with AIDS who wish to become homeowners, and a need to treat co-occurring disorders with a holistic approach.**

The first and third needs can be addressed with HOPWA funds and have been identified as priorities in this document.

With the development of new treatment protocols, mortality rates for persons living with AIDS are plummeting across the United States. Many persons living with AIDS with access to these treatments are beginning to address issues of living relatively long, productive and healthy lives. Access to primary medical care should be the priority of all HIV/AIDS systems of care. The emphasis of care and treatment must shift from an emphasis on single-disease and single-person programs to full spectrum, family oriented support programs. A successful HIV/AIDS system of care will incorporate all the components of health and social service care that affects a consumer's life.

Traditionally, HIV/AIDS case management has been provided by community-based organizations or AIDS service organizations using a social work model providing for the psychosocial need of persons living with AIDS. Many rural communities have also provided nurse case management through their local health departments using public health nurses.

The new model of case management is care coordination provided by a care team and includes all the components required to coordinate care for someone with HIV/AIDS. The care team can include not only the case manager but the clinician, a pharmacist, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, an advocate, a mental health counselor, a substance abuse counselor, and other professional people based on the needs of the client. The new model calls for identifying the activities of care coordination and finding the most effective and efficient ways to provide those activities.

With a team approach, no one agency is required to develop all the necessary resources to assist the client's greater needs. Multiple agencies can contribute resources and share the burden via this team model, but, more important, the team approach can provide a more integrated approach to the overall system of care and a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of the client.

* **Another person stated that the need for back to work training for persons living with AIDs was premature since the trial medications are not helping everyone to live for longer periods.**

It was noted that while the combination therapies are expensive, hard to take by some, and have significant side effects, overall there was a forty-seven percent reduction in the number of deaths associated with AIDS. A significant amount of persons living with AIDS were able to get well enough to consider future employment as an option. Unfortunately, protease inhibitors do not eliminate the need for other HIV/AIDS treatment. The standard for treatment is now a combination of three or more drugs. The standard cost for an individual is estimated at $10,000 - $15,000 per year, according to the national Association of People with AIDS. It is estimated that around thirty percent of all people with HIV/AIDS cannot tolerate protease inhibitors. While the optimum time to begin treatment with combination therapy is when an infected person is still healthy, people infected with HIV usually don't qualify for state AIDS drug assistance program (ADAP) or Medicaid until they are seriously ill, financially strapped, or disabled.

* **Form letters were received from eleven CHDOs or non-profit organizations addressing three primary issues.**

**It was stated that local governing bodies should be eligible for funding through the LCDBG and HOME programs for projects which would help non-profit 501 (c)(3) housing corporations pay for the cost of infrastructure improvements such as water and sewer systems, storm drainage, streets et cetera. It was also suggested that funding be made available for non-profit organization planning, rezoning, surveying, and the development of affordable housing.**

In accordance with the provisions of CFR 24 Part 92.206 (a) (3), utility connections, on-site roads and sewer and water lines necessary to the development of the project are eligible hard costs in conjunction with both new construction and acquisition/rehabilitation of housing under the HOME Program. Identification of all costs (including those related to site improvements) in connection with a specific project must be set forth within the application and will become a line item development cost within the approved budget at HOME loan closing. Eligible soft costs are identified at 92.206(d). Eligible site improvements must be project specific. Projects are reserved HOME funding on a competitive basis. A municipality, police jury or CHDO may submit an application under the Agency's HOME Affordable Rental Housing funding round. CHDOs are also eligible to submit applications under separate CHDO funding rounds.

In accordance with federal regulations, all applications for Louisiana Community Development Block Grant funds must be submitted by local governing bodies. Under the public facilities program category, funds may be requested for infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer, and streets, including drainage. The applications for those funds must identify specific or known beneficiaries. Historically, LCDBG funds have been used to improve or upgrade existing infrastructure systems or to install water and sewer systems in areas not served by a community-wide system.

* **The second suggestion in those letters requested that rural governments should be able to receive funds for property acquisition to address local housing plans or goals for the expansion of affordable housing stock. The acquired property should be made available to CHDOs and other 501(c)(3) non-profit housing corporations for the development of affordable housing stock.**

Rural communities are eligible to submit HOME applications for the acquisition/rehabilitation of affordable rental housing during competitive funding rounds. Funding for single family acquisition is made available to low income first-time homebuyers through participating lenders only.

HOME funds benefit low and very low income families with incomes not exceeding eighty percent of the area median family income. Some programs utilizing HOME funds target families at and below fifty percent of the area median family income.

* **The third issue in the form letters addressed citizen participation. It was stated that the poor should be allowed and encouraged to attend consolidated planning forums since the programs involved are for the benefit of low and moderate income persons.**

The State's citizen participation process is in full accord with and exceeds the federal regulations pertaining to the consolidated planning process. Although the regulations require only one annual public hearing to obtain comments on the housing and community development needs of the State, either two or four public hearings have been held for this purpose each year. The attendance at State public hearings differs from the attendance at public hearings held by entitlement and non-entitlement communities. The public hearings held by the State are open to any individuals who wish to attend them.

Each local governing body must hold a public hearing within its own jurisdiction prior to the packaging and submittal of a LDBG application. The purpose of that public hearing is to provide an opportunity for the citizens of the community to give input regarding their perception of the local needs. The local governing bodies must give consideration to those needs and comments when determining the jurisdiction's priorities and type of funds which will be requested under the LCDBG Program.

At least sixty percent of the beneficiaries of all projects funded under the LCDBG program must be of low and moderate income. The State has always surpassed that percentage. For example, the FY 1998 LCDBG Program benefited 60,225 persons of which 48,821 or 81.06 percent were of low and moderate income. The State has proposed to add one point to the FY 2000 – FY 2001 rating systems for public facilities projects which will serve sixty percent or more low income persons.

* **Two comments were received asking that the Office of Community Development accept applications for the construction of multi-purpose community centers.**

Although the Office of Community Development had considered dropping the set-aside for multi-purpose community centers, the proposed Action Plan for FY 2000 includes a $600,000 set-aside for this type of facility.

* **A representative of a non-profit corporation stressed the lack of affordable housing housing opportunities for persons with disabilities. Additionally, a request was made for HOME and LCDBG funds to be used for the creation of supervised independent living apartments for people with severe and persistent mental illness in Region V.**

  The LCDBG program has funds available to preserve existing owner-occupied housing for low-to-moderate income persons. Since the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency is basically charged with the responsibility for housing concerns in the State, the Office of Community Development relies on that agency to develop programs for housing in the State.

  Increasing the supply of affordable rental housing has been identified as priority #2 under the HOME Program and funding is made available on a competitive basis to both for-profit and non-profit developers. While this priority includes rehabilitation and reconstruction, selection criteria for the Affordable Rental Housing program provides incentive for new construction in areas evidencing occupancy rates in excess of ninety-five percent. While rehabilitation and reconstruction may be more cost effective, the majority of demand for funding of rental properties has been for new construction. Selection criteria also favors projects with higher percentages of units set aside specifically for special needs populations (elderly and physically or mentally challenged persons and families). While HOME funds may not be used to finance the provision of supportive services, LHFA has included selection criteria in connection with the development of rental housing which provides incentive for developers to seek out and provide supportive services for the low income occupants of these developments.

The following comments were received regarding the proposed Consolidated Plan for FY 2000 – FY 2004 and the proposed FY 2000 Annual Action Plan. A summary of the comments received is presented in bold type and is followed by the response.

* **Eleven comments were submitted requesting that the overlay of streets be reinstated as an eligible program activity.**

  Many of the comments received referred to the overlay of streets as a preventive and/or maintenance measure. However, activities which are undertaken for maintenance and repair purposes is prohibited by federal regulations. One of the reasons the overlaying of streets was eliminated in the proposed FY 2000 Annual Action Plan was that it was becoming very difficult for the LCDBG staff to distinguish between the overlay of streets which are eligible for improvements in accordance with the federal regulations and those streets which were ineligible under federal regulations. It was felt that many of the streets which had been submitted for overlay in previous applications could be categorized as being a maintenance activity and, therefore, could not be funded. The reconstruction of streets in poor condition and the surfacing of streets which have never been paved will remain as eligible activities.

* **One parish official suggested that the number of target areas for street improvements in parishes be increased from three to five under the LCDBG Program. It was stated that due to the winding of the Mississippi River some of the political boundaries in southern parishes are quite large and spread out; therefore, only three target areas would disproportionately impact some of the large parishes as compared to eligible municipalities.**

  The number of target areas remained at three as it was felt that the impact of the street improvements would be greater in a smaller number of target areas.

* **One comment was received asking that the LCDBG Program provide funding for multi-purpose community centers under the FY 2000 – FY 2001 funding cycles.**

  As was proposed in the FY 2000 Annual Action Plan, $600,000 in FY 2000 LCDBG funds and $600,000 in FY 2001 LCDBG funds will be set-aside for the funding of multi-purpose community centers.

* **One administrative consultant asked that the LCDBG staff reconsider the proposed elimination of the purchase of fire fighting equipment.**

  The decision to eliminate fire fighting equipment was made because of problems encountered in the past. It was felt that the best use of LCDBG funds was for the purchase of the more expensive items such as pumper and tanker trucks and the construction of fire stations. The local fire departments could use their local funds to provide the less costly items needed to equip the trucks purchased under the LCDBG Program.

# GENERAL APPENDICES

APPENDIX 4

INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO ASSIST THE HOMELESS IN LOUISIAI

HOMELESS SHELTERS - CAPACITY/CLIENTELE: STATE OF LOUISIANA 6/99

| SITE CITY | FACILITY | CAPACITY | CLIENTELE |
|---|---|---|---|
| ABBEVILLE | STEP-UP SHELTER | 16 | UW, SPF HOMELESS WOMEN ANDTI |
| ALEXANDRIA | GRACE HOUSE | 16 | UM, SPF UNACCOMPANIED MEN, I |
| ALEXANDRIA | HOPE HOUSE/SHEPHERD MINISTRIES | 35 | UW, SPF HOMELESS WOMEN AND |
| ALEXANDRIA | MAISON DE COEUR/SHEPHERD MINISTRIES | 6 | UM, UW PERSONS WITH TERMINAI |
| ALEXANDRIA | PHOENIX POINT TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM/SHEPHERD MINISTRIES | 13 | UW, UM, SPF, TPF, AC, ADULT: |
| ALEXANDRIA | THE SALVATION ARMY TRANSIENT LODGE-ALEX. | 50 | UM, UW SPF, AC TRANSIENTS, ( |
| ALEXANDRIA | TURNING POINT CENTER/FAM. COUNS. AGENCY | 36 | UW, SPF BATTERED WOMEN & THI |
| BATON ROUGE | A NEW INSPIRATION | 10 | UW FEMALE RECOVERING ALCOH( |
| BATON ROUGE | A PLACE OF REFUGE | 6 | SPF UNACCOMPANIED MOTHERS < |
| BATON ROUGE | BATTERED WOMEN'S PROGRAM/ZONTA HOUSE | 42 | UW, SPF BATTERED WOMEN & THI |
| BATON ROUGE | BISHOP STANLEY J. OTT SHELTER | 49 | UM - UNACCOMPANIED MEN OVER |
| BATON ROUGE | ELECT LADY SHELTER | 50 | UM, UW, UFY, UMY, SPF, TPF, |
| BATON ROUGE | FAMILIES FIRST HOUSING | 40 | SPF,TPF HOMELESS INTACT FAI |
| BATON ROUGE | JOSEPH HOMES, INC. | 7 | UM - RECENTLY RELEASED MALE |
| BATON ROUGE | MAISON DES AMI OF LA | 36 | UM, UW MENTALLY ILL AND/OR |
| BATON ROUGE | MISSIONARIES/CHARITY QUEEN OF PEACE HOME | 40 | UW, SPF, UFY: WOMEN, MOTHER: |
| BATON ROUGE | MYRIAM=S HOUSE | 10 | UW UNACCOMPANIED WOMEN |
| BATON ROUGE | O'BRIEN HOUSE | 40 | UM, UW - RECOVERING SUBSTAN( |
| BATON ROUGE | ST. ANTHONY'S HOUSE-OLOL RMC | 12 | UW, UM - PERSONS WITH AIDS & |
| BATON ROUGE | THE SALVATION ARMY TRANSIENT LODGE | 30 | UM- SINGLE MEN |
| BATON ROUGE | VOA FAM. EMERGENCY SHELTER/AMERICA HOUSE | 45 | UW, SPF, TPF, AC - WOMEN ANI |
| BATON ROUGE | VOA TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM | 40 | SPF, TPF, SINGLES & 2 PRNT I |
| BATON ROUGE | WOMEN'S COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER | 15 | UW -CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILI |
| BROUSSARD | JOB AND OPPORTUNITY AND TRAINING CENTER | 25 | UM, CHRONIC SUB.ABUSRS COMI |
| CHALMETTE | ST. BERNARD BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER | 26 | UW, SPF - BATTERED WOMEN ANI |
| CROWLEY | ASSIST AGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER | 12 | UW, SPF SINGLE WOMEN & WOMEI |
| CROWLEY | WELCOME HOUSE-MAXI GOSPEL TAB. CHURCH | 50 | UW, SPF, TPF, AC, UFY, UMY |
| DERIDDER | JUNE JENKINS WOMEN'S SHELTER | 20 | UW, SPF - BATTERED WOMEN ANI |
| FRANKLIN | SUNSHINE HOUSE | 6 | SPF, TPF, SINGLE & 2 PARENT |
| GONZALES | ASCENSION FAMILY CRISIS SHELTER | 10 | SPF, TPF SINGLE AND TWO P/ |
| GONZALES | ASCENSION HOUSE | 8 | UM ACCOMPANIED MEN |
| HAMMOND | SOUTHEAST SPOUSE ABUSE PROGRAM | 12 | UW, SPF, DOMES. VIOL. VICTII |
| HAMMOND | TANGIPAHOA QUAD AREA FAMILY CRISIS SHELT | 7 | UM, UW, SPF, TPF, AC |
| HARVEY | GATEWAY FOUNDATION | 28 | CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL, SI |
| HOUMA | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS | 19 | SPF, HOMELESS MOTHERS W/ 3CI |

JEFF. PAR. THE NEW LIFE CENTER 400 UW, SPF, TPF, SPF, AC



| SITE CITY | FACILITY | CAPACITY | CLIENTELE |
|---|---|---|---|
| JEFFERSON | METRO BW PROGRAM - FIRST STAGE SHELTER | 15 | UW, SPF - BATTERED WOMEN ANI |
| JEFFERSON | METRO BW PROGRAM - 2ND STAGE SHELTER | 15 | UW, SPF - FORMER SHELTER RE |
| KENNER | KENNER DISASTER SHELTER | 12 | SPF, TPF, AC FAMILIES, COUPI |
| LAFAYETTE | FAITH HOUSE | 28 | UW, UFY, SPF - FAMILY VIOLEI |
| LAFAYETTE | GATEHOUSE FOUNDATION HALFWAY HOUSE | 15 | UM, UW - RECOVERING SUBSTAN |
| LAFAYETTE | JOSHUA HOUSE | 11 | UM, UM COMING FROM TREAT.EMI |
| LAFAYETTE | MAISON DE MERE | 14 | UW, SPF PREGNANT AND/OR PARI |
| LAFAYETTE | NAOMI HOUSE | 20 | UW SINGLE HOMELESS WOMEN |
| LAFAYETTE | SHALOM HOUSE FAMILY SHELTER | 6 | UW – UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS |
| LAFAYETTE | SMILE FAMILY SHELTER | 12 | SPF, TPF, UW, UM, AC |
| LAFAYETTE | ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION HALFWAY HOUSE | 14 | UM, UW - RECOVERING SUBSTAN |
| LAFAYETTE | ST. JOSEPH SHELTER FOR MEN | 39 | UM - UNACCOMPANIED MEN |
| LAFAYETTE | ST. LUKE=S CENTER | 6 | UM, UW -UNACCOMPANIED MEN & |
| LAFAYETTE | THE SALVATION ARMY HOMELESS LODGE | 35 | UN - UNACCOMPANIED MEN |
| LK CHARLES | CALCASIEU WOMEN'S SHELTER | 33 | UW, SPF - BATTERED WOMEN ANI |
| LK CHARLES | GRACE RESCUE MISSION | 13 | UM, TRANSIENT MEN |
| LK CHARLES | HARBOUR HOUSE | 20 | UFY, UMY - YOUTH, AGES 3 - |
| LK CHARLES | NEPENTHE HOUSE | 14 | UM UNACCOMPANIED MEN WHO H |
| LK CHARLES | POTTERS HOUSE | 14 | UW, SPF - FAMILIES WITH CHI |
| LK CHARLES | THE LORD'S PLACE | 18 | UM - UNACCOMPANIED MEN |
| LK CHARLES | THE SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD LODGE | 16 | UM, UW, SPF, TPF, AC - MEN, |
| LEESVILLE | DOWDEN MEMORIAL SHELTER/VERNON COMM. ACT. | 21 | UM, UW, SPF, TPF, AC - SINGI |
| MANSFIELD | DESOTO PARISH TEMPORARY SHELTER | 8 | UW, SPF, TPF, AC |
| MANY | TAYLOR HOUSE: SABINE SHELTER | 16 | UW, SPF – BATTERED WOMEN ANI |
| MARRERO | ACC/JEFFERSON PARISH CARE CENTER | 36 | PF, TPF, SINGLE & TWO PAREN |
| MINDEN | UNITED CHRISTIAN HOME, INC. | 19 | UM, UW, SPF, TPF, AC |
| MONROE | FAIRHAVEN HOMELESS SHELTER | 16 | UW, UM - CHRONICALLY MENTAL |
| MONROE | OUR HOUSE | 6 | UMY, UFY ACCOMPANIED YOUTH |
| MONROE | THE FRANCISCAN HOUSE | 16 | UW, UM MEN, WOMEN WITH HI |
| MONROE | THE SALVATION ARMY SHELTERS-MONROE | 36 | UW, UM, SPF - SINGLES AND M |
| MONROE | USA MISSION HOMELESS SHELTER | 4 | UM SINGLE MEN |
| MONROE | YWCA MARY GOSS SHELTER | 22 | UW, SPF - BATTERED WOMEN ANI |
| NEW IBERIA | SMILE IBERIA PARISH HOMELESS SHELTER | 24 | SPF, TPF, UW, AC, UM - FAMI |
| NEW IBERIA | SNAP SHELTER | 22 | UW, SPF - VICTIMS OF FAMILY |
| NEW ORLEANS | ACC CARE CENTER | 24 | UW, SPF, WOMEN, MOTHERS AND |
| NEW ORLEANS | ACC/CRESCENT HOUSE | 25 | UW, SPF BATTERED WOMEN AND |
| NEW ORLEANS | BRANTLEY BAPTIST CENTER | 230 | UM, UW, SPF, TPF, AC, SINGL |
| NEW ORLEANS | BRIDGE HOUSE CORPORATION | 150 | UM, UW - RECOVERING SUBSTAN |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW ORLEANS | COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CONCERN | 10 | SPF, TPF - HOMELESS FAMILIE |
| NEW ORLEANS | COVENANT HOUSE | 114 | UFY, UMY - HOMELESS YOUTH A |



| SITE CITY | FACILITY | CAPACITY | CLIENTELE |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW ORLEANS | GRACE HOUSE OF NEW ORLEANS | 30 | UW - WOMEN WITH AN ALCOHOL |
| NEW ORLEANS | HOPE HOUSE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING | 25 | SPF, TPF - MOTHERS AND CHIL |
| NEW ORLEANS | LINDY'S PLACE | 6 | UW - UNACCOMPANIED WOMEN |
| NEW ORLEANS | MONTE CARLO GROUP HOMES | 50 | W, UM - ADULT MENTALLY ILL |
| NEW ORLEANS | MY HOUSE | 50 | SPF, TPF - MOTHERS AND THE |
| NEW ORLEANS | NEW ORLEANS MISSION | 33 | UM - UNACCOMPANIED MEN |
| NEW ORLEANS | OZANAM INN | 96 | UM - SINGLE ADULT MALES |
| NEW ORLEANS | PROJECT LAZARUS | 20 | UM, UW - MEN AND WOMEN WIT |
| NEW ORLEANS | RECOVERY WORKS | 130 | UM,UW,SPF,TPF,AC- RECOVERI |
| NEW ORLEANS | SALVATION ARMY MEN=S EMERG SHELTR OF NO | 103 | UM - UNACCOMPANIED HOMELES |
| NEW ORLEANS | SALV. ARMY WOMEN'S & CHN'S HOSP. HOUSE | 55 | UW, SPF - WOMEN AND MOTHER |
| NEW ORLEANS | SHEPHERD'S FLOCK SHELTER | 28 | UM - RECOVERING SUBSTANCE |
| NEW ORLEANS | UNION BETHEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP. | 10 | UM, UW, UFY, UMY, SPF, TPF, |
| NEW ORLEANS | VOA MEN'S REHABILITATION CENTER | 45 | UM - HOMELESS MALE ALCOHOL |
| OPELOUSAS | NEW LIFE CENTER (under renovation) | * | UW, SPF - WOMEN AND MOTHER |
| OPELOUSAS | OPELOUSAS LIGHT HOUSE MISSION | 24 | UM UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS |
| RUSTON | JIMERSON HOUSE | 8 | UW, SPF FAM. VIOLENCE VICT |
| SHREVEPORT | ADOLESCENT INTERCHANGE SERVICE | 30 | UFY, UMY YOUTH WITH CMI, H |
| SHREVEPORT | BEN=S HOUSE & BILL=S HOUSE, JEREMY’S PLACE | 65 | UM MEN RECOVERING FROM S |
| SHREVEPORT | BRIDGES (SAFE HAVENS PROGRAM) | 10 | UM, UW, SPF, TPF, AC HOMEL |
| SHREVEPORT | BUCKHALTER HOTEL | 46 | UM, UW - RECOVERING SUBSTA |
| SHREVEPORT | CADDO BOSSIER CENTER | 26 | UW, UM - RECOVERING SUBSTA |
| SHREVEPORT | CHRIST'S CENTER OUTREACH FOR THE HOMELESS | 35 | UM, UW, SPF, TPF - MEN, WO |
| SHREVEPORT | CROSSROADS | 9 | UM, UW -CLIENTS OF SHREVEP |
| SHREVEPORT | GREAT VETERANS CARE | 12 | UM, UW - UNACCOMPANIED HOM |
| SHREVEPORT | HERBERT HOUSE | 15 | UM UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS |
| SHREVEPORT | MCADOO HOTEL | 45 | UW, UM - HOMELESS ELDERLY |
| SHREVEPORT | MERCY CENTER | 10 | UM, UW - UNACCOMP. MEN, WO |
| SHREVEPORT | MOTHER STEWART HOUSE | 15 | UW - SINGLE WOMEN WITH NO |
| SHREVEPORT | PROJECT REACH | 9 | UM, UW DUALLY DIAG.MENTLY |
| SHREVEPORT | PROVIDENCE HOUSE HOMELESS FAMILY SHELTER | 152 | UW, SPF, TPF, AC - WOMEN A |
| SHREVEPORT | SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER RESCUE MISSION | 113 | UM - UNACCOMPANIED HOMELES |
| SHREVEPORT | S.T.E.P.S. | 12 | UM, UW, UMY, UFY NEEDING N |
| SHREVEPORT | THE SALVATION ARMY SHELTER OF HOPE | 50 | UM, UW - UNACCOMPANIED MEN, |
| SHREVEPORT | THE WELL HOTEL | 12 | UM, SPF, TPF |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SHREVEPORT | TRANSITIONS | 12 | UM, UW PERSONS WITH CHRONI( |
| SHREVEPORT | YWCA FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM | 30 | UW, SPF - BATTERED WOMEN AN |
| SLIDELL | SAFE HARBOR | 21 | UW, UFY, SPF - DOMESTIC VI( |
| SLIDELL | THE CARING CENTER OF SLIDELL | 15 | UW, SPF HOMELESS WOMEN AN |
| VINTON | CITY OF REFUGE | 60 | UM, SPF, AC - HOMELESS MEN |

TOTAL NUMBER OF FACILITIES: 115
TOTAL STATEWIDE CAPACITY: 4,179

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CLIENTELE CODES:

UM - Unaccompanied Men
UW - Unaccompanied Women
UFY - Unaccompanied Female Youth Under 18
UMY - Unaccompanied Male Youth Under 18

SPF - Single Pare
TPF - Two Parent
AC - Adult Coupl
(without c

HOMELESS SHELTERS - LOCATIONS AND PHONE NUMBERS
STATE OF LOUISIANA 6/99

| SITE CITY | FACILITY | LOCATION | TELEPH |
|---|---|---|---|
| ABBEVILLE | STEP-UP SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| ALEXANDRIA | GRACE HOUSE | #10 16TH STREET | (318) |
| ALEXANDRIA | HOPE HOUSE/SHEPHERD MINISTRIES | 29 BOLTON AVENUE | (318) |
| ALEXANDRIA | MAISON DE COEUR/SHEPHERD MINISTRIES | 3330 PRESCOTT ROAD | (318) |
| ALEXANDRIA | PHOENIX POINT TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM | 4114 PHOENIX DR. | (318) |
| ALEXANDRIA | THE SALVATION ARMY TRANSIENT LODGE | 620 BEAUREGARD | (318) |
| ALEXANDRIA | TURNING POINT CENTER/FAM. COUNS. AGENCY | CONFIDENTIAL | (318)4 |
| BATON ROUGE | A NEW INSPIRATION | 1272 LAUREL STREET | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | A PLACE OF REFUGE | 4335 NORTH BLVD. | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | BATTERED WOMEN'S PROGRAM/ZONTA HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | BISHOP STANLEY J. OTT SHELTER | 2550 PLANK ROAD | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | ELECT LADY SHELTER | 3513 MARIBEL DRIVE | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | FAMILIES FIRST HOUSING | CONFIDENTIAL | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | GREAT VETERANS CARE | SCATTERED SITES | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | JOSEPH HOMES, INC. | 130 SOUTH 11TH ST. | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | MAISON DES AMI OF LA | 1050 CONVENTION ST. | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | MISSIONARIES/CHARITY QUEEN OF PEACE HOME | 715 EAST BLVD | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | MYRIAM=S HOUSE | 1141 W. CHIMES STREET | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | O'BRIEN HOUSE | 1220 MAIN ST. | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | ST. ANTHONY'S HOUSE-OLOL RMC | CONFIDENTIAL | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | THE SALVATION ARMY TRANSIENT LODGE - BR | 7361 AIRLINE HWY | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | VOA FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTER/AMERICA HOUSE | 827 AMERICA ST. | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | VOA TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM | 2447 BROWNLEE ST. | (225) |
| BATON ROUGE | WOMEN'S COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER | 855 ST. FERDINAND ST. | (225) |
| BROUSSARD | JOB AND OPPORTUNITY AND TRAINING CENTER | HWY 96 | (318) |
| CHALMETTE | ST. BERNARD BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| CROWLEY | ASSIST AGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| CROWLEY | WELCOME HOUSE-MAXI GOSPEL TAB. CHURCH | ROUTE 2 BOX 332-A | (318) |
| DERIDDER | JUNE JENKINS WOMEN'S SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| FRANKLIN | SUNSHINE HOUSE | 1407 BARROW ST. | (318) |
| GONZALES | ASCENSION FAMILY CRISIS SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (225) |
| GONZALES | ASCENSION HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (225) |
| HAMMOND | SOUTHEAST SPOUSE ABUSE PROGRAM | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |

HOMELESS SHELTERS - LOCATIONS AND PHONE NUMBERS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

| SITE CITY | FACILITY | LOCATION | TELEPH |
|---|---|---|---|
| HAMMOND | TANGIPAHOA-QUAD AREA FAMILY CRISIS SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| HARVEY | GATEWAY FOUNDATION | 4103 LAC COUTURE DR. | (504) |
| HOUMA | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS CENTER | 300 BOND STREET | (504) |
| JEFF PAR | THE NEW LIFE CENTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| JEFFERSON | METRO BW PROGRAM - FIRST STAGE SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| JEFFERSON | METRO BW PROGRAM - 2ND STAGE SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| KENNER | KENNER DISASTER SHELTER | 908 27TH STREET | (504) |
| LAFAYETTE | FAITH HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | GATEHOUSE FOUNDATION HALFWAY HOUSE | 206 SOUTH MAGNOLIA ST. | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | JOSHUA HOUSE | 217 OLIVIER ST. | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | MAISON DE MERE | 520 ST. JOHN ST. | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | NAOMI HOUSE | 124 OLIVIER STREET | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | SHALOM HOUSE TRANSITIONAL SHELTER | 512 OLIVIER ST. | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | SMILE FAMILY SHELTER | 418 LAFAYETTE ST. | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION HALFWAY HOUSE | 1610 WEST UNIVERSITY | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | ST. JOSEPH SHELTER FOR MEN | 425 ST. JOHN ST. | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | ST. LUKE=S CENTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| LAFAYETTE | THE SALVATION ARMY HOMELESS LODGE | 212 SIXTH STREET | (318) |
| LAKE CHAS. | CALCASIEU WOMEN'S SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| LAKE CHAS. | GRACE RESCUE MISSION | 521 FORD ST. | (318) |
| LAKE CHAS. | HARBOUR HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| LAKE CHAS. | NEPENTHE HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| LAKE CHAS. | POTTERS HOUSE | 933 NORTH SHATTUCK | (318) |
| LAKE CHAS. | THE LORD'S PLACE | 330 NORTH RYAN ST. | (318) |
| LAKE CHAS. | THE SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD LODGE | 126 KIRKMAN | (318) |
| LEESVILLE | DOWDEN MEMORIAL SHELTER/VERNON COMM. ACT. | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| MANSFIELD | DESOTO PARISH TEMPORARY SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| MANY | TAYLOR HOUSE: SABINE SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| MARRERO | ACC/JEFFERSON PARISH CARE CENTER | 1108 BARATARIA BLVD | (504) |
| MINDEN | UNITED CHRISTIAN HOME, INC. | 104-109 FULLER ST. | (318) |
| MONROE | FAIRHAVEN HOMELESS SHELTER | 820 JACKSON ST. | (318) |
| MONROE | OUR HOUSE | 912 ST. JOHN ST. 71201 | (318) |
| MONROE | THE SALVATION SHELTERS | 105 HART ST. | (318) |

HOMELESS SHELTERS - LOCATIONS AND PHONE NUMBERS

STATE OF LOUISIANA

| SITE CITY | FACILITY | LOCATION | TELEPH |
|---|---|---|---|
| MONROE | THE FRANCISCAN HOUSE | 901 S. 4TH ST. | (318) |
| MONROE | USA MISSION HOMELESS SHELTER | 2505-07-09 GORDON AVE | (318) |
| MONROE | YWCA MARY GOSS SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| NEW IBERIA | SMILE IBERIA PARISH HOMELESS SHELTER | 301 ROBERTSON ST. | (318) |
| NEW IBERIA | SNAP SHELTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| NEW ORLEANS | ACC CARE CENTER | 4222 SOUTH BROAD ST. | (504)5 |
| NEW ORLEANS | ACC/CRESCENT HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | BRANTLEY BAPTIST CENTER | 201 MAGAZINE ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | BRIDGE HOUSE CORPORATION | 1160 CAMP ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CONCERN | SCATTERED SITES | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | COVENANT HOUSE | 611 NORTH RAMPART ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | GRACE HOUSE OF NEW ORLEANS | 1401 DELACHAISE ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | HOPE HOUSE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING | 500-524 AUSTERLITZ ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | LINDY'S PLACE | 2407 BARONNE STREET | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | LIVING WITNESS COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | NEW ORLEANS MISSION | 1130 O.C. HALEY BLVD. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | ODYSSEY HOUSE FAMILY CENTER | 1125 NORTH TONTI ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | OZANAM INN | 843 CAMP ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | PROJECT LAZARUS | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | SHEPHERD'S FLOCK SHELTER | 1631 BARONNE ST. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | SALVATION ARMY CTRS OF HOPE/MEN’S SHELTER | 4500 S. CLAIBORNE AVE | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | SALV. ARMY CTR OF HOPE/WOMEN’S LODGE | 4500 S. CLAIBORNE AVE | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | THE SALV. ARMY TRANSITIONAL FMLY HSNG | 4500 S. CLAIBORNE AVE | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SRO | 3901 TULANE AVE. | (504) |
| NEW ORLEANS | YWCA BW PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| OPELOUSAS | NEW LIFE CENTER | 404 EAST LANDRY | (318) |
| OPELOUSAS | OPELOUSAS LIGHT HOUSE MISSION | 700 WEST SOUTH STREET | (318) |
| RUSTON | JIMERSON HOUSE | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | BEN'S HOUSE, BILL'S HOUSE, JEREMY’S PLACE | 530 KIRBY, 410 DALZELL | (318) 4 |
| SHREVEPORT | BRIDGES (SAFE HAVENS PROGRAM) | 610 MARSHALL ST. | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | BUCKHALTER HOTEL | 527 CROCKETT ST. | (318) |

HOMELESS SHELTERS - LOCATIONS AND PHONE NUMBERS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

| SITE CITY | FACILITY | LOCATION | TELEPH |
|---|---|---|---|
| SHREVEPORT | CADDO BOSSIER CENTER | 6220 GREENWOOD ROAD | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | CHRIST'S CENTER OUTREACH FOR THE HOMELESS | 1445 CLAIBORNE AVE | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | CROSSROADS | 526 KIRBY PLACE | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | GREAT VETERANS CARE | SCATTERED SITES | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | HERBERT HOUSE | 1252 SPRAGUE ST. | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | MCADOO HOTEL | 1002 TEXAS AVE | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | MERCY CENTER | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | MOTHER STEWART HOUSE | 1248 SPRAGUE ST. | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | PROJECT REACH | 610 MARSHALL ST. | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | PROVIDENCE HOUSE HOMELESS FAMILY SHELTER | 814 COTTON ST. | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER RESCUE MISSION | 2033 TEXAS ST. | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | S.T.E.P.S. | 525 CROCKETT ST. | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | THE SALVATION ARMY SHELTER OF HOPE | 201 EAST STONER AVE | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | THE WELL HOTEL | 727 MILAM | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | TRANSITIONS | CONFIDENTIAL | (318) |
| SHREVEPORT | YWCA BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER | 710 TRAVIS ST. | (318) |
| SLIDELL | SAFE HARBOR | CONFIDENTIAL | (504) |
| SLIDELL | THE CARING CENTER OF SLIDELL | 1020 STADIUM DRIVE | (504) |
| VINTON | CITY OF REFUGE | 5899 HIGHWAY 3112 | (318) |

SOUP KITCHENS IN LOUISIANA
LOCATIONS, PHONE NUMBERS, AND SERVICE TIMES

| SITE CITY | FACILITY | LOCATION | PHONE | SERVICE DAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abbeville | Christians in Action Soup Kitchen | 507 Bailey St. | (318) 898-1830 | M,W,F |
| Alexandria | Manna House | 2655 Lee | (318) 445-9053 | 7 |
| Baton Rouge | Center for Christian Unity | 3006 Fuqua St. | (225) 383-9789 | M - F |
| Baton Rouge | Holy Grill | BREC Center 6000 Cadillac St. | (225) 925-3414 | M - F |
| Baton Rouge | Scott Gilchrist Bethel AME Center | 1356 South Blvd. | (225) 335-1843 | Saturday |
| Baton Rouge | St. Vincent DePaul Dining Room | 220 St. Vincent de Paul Place | (225) 383-7439 | 7 |
| Clinton | Woodland Community Center | 10600 Rouchon Lane | (225) 683-3110 | M,T,Th,F |
| Jackson | Feliciana Center Soup Kitchen | 3500 Cottage St. | (504) 634-3509 | M, W, Sa |
| Lafayette | St. Joseph's Diner | 403 W. Simcoe | (318) 232-8434 | 7 |
| Lake Charles | Abraham's Tent | 2300 Fruge St. | (318) 439-9330 | 7 |
| Lake Charles | Daily Bread Refuge Mission | 604 Boston St. | (318) 433-7026 | M - F |
| Lake Charles | Lord's Place | 330 N. Ryan St. | (318) 494-6277 | M - F |
| Monroe | Salvation Army Food Line | 514 Harrison St. | (318) 325-1755 | M - F |
| New Iberia | St. Francis Diner | 1200 Hopkins St. (at Daigre) | (318) 369-3362 | M-F |
| New Orleans | Center of Jesus the Lord Bethany Kitchen. | St. Jude Community Center | (504) 529-1636 | W, Th |
| New Orleans | Loaves and Fishes Feeding Ministry | 1222 N. Dorgenois St. | (504) 821-0529 | M, T |
| New Orleans | New Orleans Mission | 1130 Oretha C. Haley Blvd. | (504) 523-2116 | 7 |
| New Orleans | New Orleans Revival Center | 2218 St. Thomas St. | (504) 525-1125 | M - F |
| New Orleans | Ozanam Inn | 843 Camp St. | (504) 523-1184 | 7 |
| New Orleans | Sixth Baptist Church | 928 Felicity St. | (504) 525-3408 | M |
| Shreveport | Hospitality House | 1200 Sprague St. | (318) 222-0809 | M-F /Sa,Su |
| Shreveport | Salvation Army | 201 E. Stoner | (318) 424-3200 | 7 |
| Shreveport | Shreveport Bossier Rescue Mission | 2033 Texas Ave. | (318) 227-2868 | 7 |
| Vinton | A City of Refuge | 5899 HWY 3112 | (318) 589-4407 | 7 |

REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE
RESOURCE COLLABORATIVES FOR THE HOMELESS

| Region # | |
|---|---|
| I | **UNITY for the Homeless**<br>2475 Canal Street<br>Suite 300<br>New Orleans, LA 70119<br>Phone: (504) 821-4496<br>FAX: (504) 821-4704<br>Contact: Peg Reese, Executive Director |
| II | **Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless**<br>c/o Capitol Area Human Services District<br>4615 Government St., Building 2<br>Baton Rouge, LA 70806<br>Phone: (225) 925-1806, 925-1812<br>FAX: (225) 925-1987<br>Contact: Christine Rhorer, Chair |
| III | **Lafourche, Terrebonne Assumption Homeless Partnership**<br>c/o Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services<br>154 North Hollywood<br>Houma, LA 70364<br>Phone: 504/851-4488, 800/947-7645<br>FAX: 504/872-0985<br>Contact: Claire Lambert |
| IV | **ARCH**<br>**The Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness & Housing, Inc.**<br>c/o Lafayette Catholic Service Centers<br>P. O. Box 3177<br>Lafayette, LA 70502-3177<br>Phone: (318) 235-4972<br>FAX: (318) 234-0953<br>Contact: Al Ghaude, President |
| V | **Southwestern Louisiana Homeless Coalition, Inc.**<br>c/o Nepenthe House<br>P. O. Box 3052<br>Lake Charles, LA 70602<br>Phone: (318) 430-0888<br>FAX: (318) 430-0910<br>Contact: Chris Stewart |

| Region # | |
|---|---|
| VI | **Central Louisiana Coalition to End Homelessness**<br>c/o Hope House/Shepherd Ministries<br>PO Box 7477<br>Alexandria, LA 71306-0477<br>Phone: (318) 487-2061<br>FAX: (318) 449-3950<br>Contact: Wanda M. Ozier |
| VII | **Homeless Coalition of Northwest Louisiana**<br>c/o Shreveport Mental Health Center<br>1310 North Hearne Avenue<br>Shreveport, LA 71107<br>Phone: (318) 676-5110<br>FAX: (318) 676-5021<br>Contact: Sam Medica, Chair<br>Alternate Contact: JoAnn Czerwenski, Centerpoint<br>Phone: (318) 227-2150, 425-7067 |
| VIII | **Region VIII Coalition for Homeless Awareness and Prevention (CHAP)**<br>c/o Monroe Mental Health Center<br>4800 S. Grand St.<br>Monroe, LA 71202<br>Phone: (318) 362-3339<br>FAX: (318) 362-3336<br>Contact: Betsy Jackson |
| IX | **Northlake Continuum of Care Coalition**<br>[Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes]<br>Contact: Anne Magnuson<br>606 Rue Chalet<br>Hammond, LA 70403<br>Phone: (504) 419-8082<br>FAX: (504) 345-5957<br>Alternate Contact: Dennis Brignac<br>Rosenblum MHC, Phone: (504) 543-4080 |
| X | **Alliance for the Homeless - River Parishes**<br>[Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John, St. James Parishes]<br>c/o Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority<br>3101 West Napoleon Avenue<br>Metairie, LA 70001<br>Phone: (504) 838-5700<br>FAX: (504) 838-5218<br>Contact: Ted Stewart, Chair |

## HOMELESS DAY SHELTERS/CASE MANAGEMENT/HEALTH CARE AGENCIES

**The New Orleans Mission**
1130 Oretha C. Haley Blvd. (Dryades St.)
P. O. Box 56565
New Orleans, LA 70156-6565 (504) 523-2116

**Multi-Service Center for the Homeless**
2801 Earhart Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70113 (504) 558-0222

**Lindy's Place, Inc.** Women's Day Center
1539 Jackson Ave., Suite 110
New Orleans, LA 70130
Sister Clarita Bourque, MSC (504) 586-0962

**Health Care for the Homeless**
914 Union Street
New Orleans, LA 70112
Kathleen W. McCaffery, Director (504) 528-3750

**Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans**
846 Baronne St.
New Orleans, LA 70113
Karen Martin, Exec. Director (504) 525-8726

**The Drop In Center** (for mentally ill homeless)
Volunteers of America of Greater Baton Rouge
3846 Government St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Curtis R. Mack, Sr., Director (225) 346-8182

**The Well**
The Church Army of Western Louisiana
110 Olivier St (PO Box 2747)
Lafayette, LA 70502
Captain Carlos Russo (318) 237-7618

**The Well** Day Shelter
The Church Army of Western Louisiana
727 Milam
Shreveport, LA 71101
Mike Kennedy, Prog. Admin. (318) 425-8764

**Centerpoint** (Case Management)
1002 Texas Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71101
website: *http://www.centerpt.org*
JoAnn Czerwenski, Director (318) 227-2100

## INFORMATION AND REFERRAL HOTLINES - STATE OF LOUISIANA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alexandria and Central La. | **First Call (318) 443-2255** | |
| Baton Rouge and Capital Region | **United Way Info Line (800) 435-7504** | |
| Lafayette and Acadiana | **SW La. Education & Referral Center**<br>**Lafayette Volunteer Center** | **(318) 232-4357**<br>**(318) 233-1006** |
| Lake Charles Region | **HELP Line (318) 436-6633** | |
| Monroe Region | **First Call for Help**<br>**Main Line** | **(318) 322-0400**<br>**(318) 387-5683** |
| New Orleans Metropolitan Area | **New Orleans Volunteer Information Service (504) 488-4636**<br>**Homeless Hotline** (800) 749-2673, **Cope Line** (504) 523-2673 | |
| Shreveport Region | **Centerpoint (318) 227-2100** website: http://www.centerpt.org | |

## TOLL FREE NUMBERS - INFORMATION & REFERRAL:

**AIDS Hotline** (800) 342-2437
**Cocaine Abuse Hotline** (800) 262-2463
**Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL)** (800) 922-3425 ;(800) 256-1633 TDD
**Domestic Violence - National Hotline** (800) 799-7233 ; (800) 787-3224 TDD
**Homeless Hotline - La. Dept. of Education** (800) 259-8826
**Literacy Hotline** (800) 227-3424
**Prenatal Care Access Information** (800) 251-2229 (BABY)
**Protective Services - Disabled Adults** (800) 898-4910
**Runaway Hotline** (800) 231-6946
**Sexually Transmitted Disease Hotline** (800) 227-8922
**Social Security/Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** (800) 772-1213
**Veterans Assistance** (800) 827-1000 ;(800) 829-4833 TDD